

20/10/03

Family 6

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Statement from Monsignor David Cappo, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Adelaide

The Catholic Church in Adelaide, without regard to issues of liability, has provided former students of St Ann's and their families with counselling and assistance as an interim measure while the Church determined what response it was able to make.

Extensive counselling has been funded by the Church for the past two years and it has been provided by eminent professionals including Mr. Malcolm Robinson.

The Church's pastoral concern has been paramount and it has not sought to limit the amount of counselling made available on that interim basis. However, the Church has never agreed or given anyone reason to expect that the counselling would be forever.

Once again without regard to issues of liability, Archbishop Philip Wilson has made unconditional offers of a total of \$2.1 million to former students to assist them in their quality of life and to assist them in accessing their own counselling.

The Archbishop is pleased that many are accepting the offers in the spirit in which they have been made.

The Archbishop has emphasised that if anyone believes or is advised they have a right of civil action against the Church, he fully supports their right to do so. They are not prevented from taking legal action if they accept the Archbishop's offer.