

## Professional Standards

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**From:** Professional Standards  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 October 2003 10:15 AM  
**To:** Joan Atkinson  
**Subject:** counselling for St Ann's

Hi Joan,  
these are my thoughts on the matter of counselling;

The Catholic Church has adopted a protocol for dealing with allegations of abuse. The Principles of Towards Healing underpinned the Church response to St Ann's former students and their families.

Not all families made a complaint to Towards Healing however, we did not impose that upon them, (in the spirit of healing and assistance as identified as key principles in this program), we offered the provision of counselling and other assistance under **Under Clause 38.4 of Towards Healing.**

**We decided to provide funding of counseling and other such assistance for the young people and their family members affected, pending the outcome of the investigation.**

**The Police investigated the matter and then rather than put the former students and their families through trauma and further investigation, we decided to offer the following response.**

### RESPONSE DECIDED UPON:

In recognition of the pain and suffering experienced by the former students as a result of the actions of Brian Perkins and the events that have unfolded since that time, the Catholic Church has chosen to assist the former students of St Ann's Special School and their families by offering to make a payment.

This is a symbol of the deep concern felt by the Church and this response is offered in the spirit of Towards Healing. Particular reference is made to the principles outlined and adopted under Towards Healing, most notably:

Truth

Humility

Healing for the victims

Assistance for other people affected.

Thus on acceptance of the offer, or by the date indicated the interim measure is to cease.

Joan, I hope that this helps,  
Sue.

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