

March 2001

DIOCESAN POSITION WITH REGARDS TO R.D.

RD informed the bishop of police visit to Neerkol, with allegations.

RD engaged a solicitor and conducted his defence entirely, on his own behalf.

The Diocese and Bishop were not involved in the legal proceedings.

At no time were other complainants made known to the Diocese, nor did they approach the Diocese.

(The Diocese is willing to hear from other complainants and offer support, facilitation and counselling, should they wish)

Brian Heenan

Primary concern – Victims of Abuse
Also concern – alleged perpetrators
As bishop, have to care for all

If people allege abuse –
Welcome their approach and arrange contact

Earlier cases AYB - phone contact, meeting with alleged ..., facilitated meeting

AYP (west) process in WA, full contact with Church
Went to law – charges laid, long battle – not settled
Financial settlement – not

Other complainants - not know to me, except one (last week)

They should approach, or should we approach them to arrange facilitation (41.3)

60 Minutes Program on Reg Durham

Finding of mental tribunal released

One month must elapse (for appeal) then it can be made public

We wish to speak to victims, to see how they are faring

We want to speak to the bishop to know – how the victims can be helped

What pastoral care is offering

Sixty Minutes – aware of Towards Healing Process

- facilitator – agree on counselling

Has spoken to Geoff Robinson

He is Chairman / explained it is decentralised and would be better to speak to local bishop or representative

What is your point – grievance of victims

Main approach – slice(?) of life – what can the Church do for these people

Options – appear or issue a statement