

17<sup>th</sup> July 1993

Dear Bishop Heenan,

I hope at some stage soon you get to read this letter. As yet, I have had no response to my letter of 6 weeks ago. I know your secretary said Father Grace handles "things like that", but it was you, that I really wanted to speak to when I was in Rockhampton. My 4 phone calls fell on deaf ears. Can you even begin to imagine what that felt like? I can assure you that I felt 'raped' by the Catholic Church all over again.

My week in Rockhampton was very traumatic as it always is but this time there was an added rejection.

As I told you in my first letter, I do not want to cause a stir, but surely priest and bishops must be made to look at the effects that sexual abuse has on innocent people. You can't go on pretending that it does not happen.

Some 25 years later it still manages to have control over me from time to time. When I am at home I have to listen to my parents sing the praises of the priest involved. He is still a very important part of our family & is held in such high esteem.

On my return home to the coast I was in such a

state, I had to see my spiritual director. As she said she would not have allowed me to visit my parents if she had known how I would come back.

I know I still need lots of healing & I guess for a while yet I will have to continue with the counselling at my expense. I am also going to do a 'Life's Healing Journey' an 8 day Retreat in Sydney, again at my expense. At least I am trying to become the whole person, that God wants me to be.

None of this could be possible without the support of my wonderful husband & family & I thank God for each of them.

I turned to you because I have heard such glowing reports of how terrific you are, but quite honestly, I have really been left disillusioned & hurt.

Just remember Bishop I am a REAL PERSON. I know I am a statistic, but I do have feelings.

I look forward to hearing from you quite soon.

You are in my prayers.

Sincerely,

AYB