

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

*Bishop's Office*

24 June 2008

AYQ

REDACTED

Dear AYQ

Thank you for your letter of June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008, and again, I appreciated the welcome you gave me on my recent visit to Toowoomba.

Following on from our phone conversation, I met with representatives of the Sisters of Mercy to consider your written request.

As we discussed in Toowoomba, the financial settlement you received in May 1999 as a result of the court action taken by you and other Neerkol residents was funded equally by the Diocese of Rockhampton and the Sisters of Mercy. Under the terms of that settlement you and the other claimants released and discharged the Diocese of Rockhampton and the Sisters of Mercy from any further claims.

The reality is that the resources of the Sisters and the Diocese have been stretched to a point where any future financial support for former residents is extremely limited. There are many former residents still being assisted through the Professional Standards Office established some years ago by the Sisters of Mercy and if we are going to be able to be there to assist as many former past residents as possible into the future, regretfully we are unable to fund lump sum payments to individual former residents.

However, we are all aware of the pain you still experience and we wish to make a meaningful gesture of assistance to support you at this time. Therefore, we would like to address two considerable items of your request, namely, the matters of your outstanding Bankcard amount as you have indicated it and your car loan with the Sisters.

If you would send to me a copy of your Bankcard statement I will arrange payment. At the same time, I will arrange a letter from the Sisters for a discharge of any further payment on the car loan.


AYQ, I understand that the memories of your abuse will never go away but, having spent some hours with you, I admire very much your spirit of courage and your determination to move ahead with your life as positively as you have. You have done so well and you are to be congratulated.

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We are hopeful that the Queensland Government Redress Scheme has been and will be in the future of significant help to you. I hope too that the financial assistance of the Diocese of Rockhampton and the Sisters of Mercy as outlined in this correspondence will be of real help to you.

AYQ, may God bless you with ongoing strength and inner peace.

Yours sincerely



Brian Heenan  
**Bishop of Rockhampton**