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MERCY ADMIN CENT

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MERCY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

ROCKHAMPTON CONGREGATION
OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE
SISTERS OF MERCY OF AUSTRALIA



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14 September 1997

Ms Mary Eather
Secretary
Neerkol Action Support Group Committee
PO Box 350
Paradise Point, Gold Coast 4216

Dear Mary

Please find herewith the Apology that the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy are offering for your Committee's consideration and hopefully acceptance at our meeting on 23 September.

We recognise the importance of the Apology being in as close as possible to the form of words that you, the former residents have requested. The only changes in format and words in this Apology from the Apology requested by the members of the Neerkol Action Support Group were made at the behest of our legal advisers.

The acknowledgement of our past failings, the recognition of the truth of your pain, the admission of our slowness to listen and to believe what you had to say, the expression of our genuine sorrow and finally our willingness to assist now and into the future - all of these essential elements of the Apology you requested remain intact.

I circulated the Apology to every member of the Congregation and the feedback I received overwhelmingly endorsed what the Apology had to say and supported it being offered to the former residents of St Joseph's Home, Neerkol.

I thank your Committee for allowing me the extra time to consult the Sisters regarding the offering of the Apology in as close as possible to the form of words requested. I trust that the meaning and significance of the Apology is enhanced for the former residents by knowing the Apology expresses the heartfelt feelings of the Congregation and that they offer it together in the hope of it finding your acceptance.

Due to the shortness of time to our meeting on 23 September, I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of this letter and Apology direct to AYD. I hope this meeting will continue to build on what we have achieved together thus far and I look forward to seeing all of your Committee on that day.

Yours sincerely,

Di-Anne

Di-Anne Rowan
Congregational Leader