

MERCY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

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



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17 June 1997

The Manager
Victims of Crime Association Qld (Inc)
Shop 6
Central Railway Plaza
Cnr Edward and Turbot Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Children's Commissioner, Mr Alford, has kindly passed on to me your correspondence to him dated 27 May 1997 concerning VOCAQ support for those who will be affected by the forthcoming Neerkol committal hearings in Rockhampton.

As you are aware, the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy are currently endeavouring to effect reconciliation and healing with those former residents of St Joseph's Home, Neerkol who have such painful memories of their experiences at the Home. In addition to offering counselling through the Professional Standards Committee, the Sisters are also providing support to complainants through access to a range of support services.

Mr Alford believed that the funding of the requested VOCAQ support during the Neerkol committal hearings may be an appropriate and tangible way for the Sisters to demonstrate our sincere commitment to the healing and reconciliation process.

We note from the Summary of your proposal to the Children's Commission, that you believe an adequate support team for those involved in the Neerkol committal hearings could be put together at a cost of some \$3 000 to \$3 500 (exclusive of air fares) for five days of intervention. Further that this cost may be able to be reduced depending on accommodation costs and if some of the intervention team could be drawn from areas near enough to drive to Rockhampton.

With these cost and time figures as our guidelines, the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy would like to offer \$5 000 or part thereof to the VOCAQ to fund the cost of having an intervention team provide support for a five (5) day period to those involved in the Neerkol committal hearings.

We trust that this offer of financial support will be acceptable to your Association and that it will assist those people during what will obviously be a traumatic time for them. Please let me know your response to this offer and how you would envisage the payment of the funding being best facilitated.

Yours sincerely,

C. Di-Anne Rowan

Sr Di-Anne Rowan
Congregational Leader