



Professional Standards Risk Management Service

September 1997
 Level 1, 324 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004
 Telephone (03) 9693 2282 Facsimile (03) 9682 5252
 G.P.O. Box 180B, Melbourne, Vic. 3001

Telephone: 9934 3192
 Facsimile: 9755 2729

Sister Di-Anne Rowan
 Congregational Leader
 Sisters of Mercy
 PO Box 1576
 Rockhampton
 QLD 4700



Dear Sister Di-Anne,

Thank you for your letter and for forwarding to me copy of the statement of apology issued to former residents of St. Joseph's Home, Neerkol. Although dated 29th September your letter did not reach me until 6th October, later therefore, than the date upon which the statement was released.

However, prior to this, I have had several conversations with Philip Bowman about the matter and also with Geoff Hancock. Ms Audrey Lee, National Claims Manager of CCI has been kept informed.

Generally speaking, it would appear the matters about which the members of the Neerkol Action Support Group are complaining do not relate to events which might fall within the scope of your insurance policies. The Insurer is able to consider only those cases which relate to Father Anderson and/or those which relate to events which occurred later than July 1969. In the case of the latter it will be necessary to identify a public liability insurance policy in force at the relevant time. Further, in respect of all cases it will be necessary to determine whether the event giving rise to claim is one which falls within the scope of the policy. During my discussion with Geoff Hancock it was agreed he would provide details of the writs filed so that an attempt can be made to identify those matters which might properly be placed before CCI for consideration.

The reason why you have issued an apology is well understood and your concern for the victims and your recognition of their plight are recognised from a pastoral viewpoint. However, CCI is entitled to consider the extent to which the position of the Insurer has been prejudiced in relation to those cases in respect of which a claim may subsequently be submitted.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Rolls