

Neerkol Action Support Group

PO Box 350
Paradise Point
Gold Coast Qld 4216
Phone: (07) REDACTED

19.7.98

Ms Mary Eather
Secretary. N.A.S.G

Philip Bauman
Director of Corporate Services
Mercy Administration Centre
P.O Box 1576
Rockhampton . Q . 4700

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your latest communication. Our committee welcomes Sister Di- anne's recent media releases and expresses their gratitude for her honorable stance and compassionate concerns.

We concur with both her sentiments in relation to a protracted and traumatic court case and the extremely stressful situation to the Sisters as well as the Neerkol members.

We are hopeful that your meeting with the Minister Anna Bligh is successful in negotiating a successful resolution.

We are most grateful to Sr Di-Anne and the order for their help and co-operation in concerned matters however, my letter to the editor is rather expressing disappointment in the Church's lack of co-operation in regards to their records and their genuine concern for victims of sexual abuse by clergy. It wasn't directed at the Sisters of Mercy.

Please express our group's appreciate to Sister Di-anne's suggestions in her media release (20th July) that the Children's Commission would be rather suitably positioned for such an inquiry. We too envisaged if wider powers were given to conduct such an inquiry with the Children's Commissioner or a parliamentary appointed "Independent Body" this would avoid costly and protracted inquiries like that of a Royal Commission.

Our group appealed to the newly appointed Director General of Family Services, Ken Smith, in a similar vein at our meeting with him yesterday.

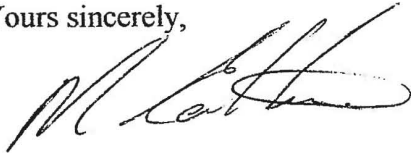
I have also appealed to opposition members to support this inquiry on these terms and have expressed strongly that it would be improper of the Department to conduct an inquiry seeing many complaints are about the Department.

It is good to hear Sr St Pious was pleased to receive our letter. We are thankful for her affirmation in the reconciliation progress.

Philip, thank you for your support and keeping the group abreast on matters of interest.

Our kind regards to Sr Di-anne.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Eather', written in a cursive style.

Ms Mary Eather
Secretary. N.A.S.G