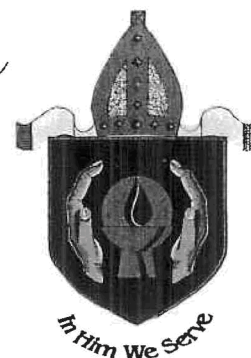


# Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton

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David Owen

REDACTED

3 December 1997

Dear David,

I am writing to you after Margie Newton has told me of a recent conversation she had with you. Margie informed me that you had been very very hurt by a letter I had written to the parishes late in 1996.

I want to let you know David that I was saddened to hear that my letter upset you so deeply. I wrote that letter in October 1996. At that time when I did not understand the complexities of the Neerkol situation. I did not know of the immense hurt people were suffering. I know you had spoken with me once before - I had tried to listen to you then, but must have not heard truly of your pain. I am trying now to listen more carefully to what people are telling me about their hurts and I am trying to understand that more fully.

Please forgive me for my hurtful words in that letter.

Yours sincerely

Brian Heenan,  
Bishop of Rockhampton