

file - letter to Newark
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**ROCKHAMPTON CONGREGATION
OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY
OF AUSTRALIA**

25 June 1999

[AYE]

[REDACTED]

Dear [AYE]

I was talking to Anne Czekanski from our Professional Standards Office a week or so ago and Anne was telling me that with the publishing of the Forde Inquiry Report and the finalising of the legal matters, you were going through a difficult time at present.

I was very sorry to hear that and I thought I would drop you a line to let you know that I was thinking of you and hoping that things would soon be going better for you.

[AYE], the journey of reconciliation that we have travelled on together has not been easy for many of the former residents but so much good has been achieved that I believe it has certainly been a worthwhile journey.

I have been fortunate to meet or talk to so many special people. There is no greater privilege than to have people trust you enough to share with you their life experiences, particularly when those experiences have been so painful and so personally distressing.

I hope, [AYE], that through what we have tried to do with the apology, the establishment of the Professional Standards Office and now with the compensation, we have, at least in some small way, helped you to cope better with the negative memories of the past. I also hope we have assisted you towards a better and brighter future.

I am so glad that caring people like Anne Czekanski have been able to help you in a tangible way and I know that Anne holds you in the highest personal regard. I hope that you know by now that the Professional Standards Office will definitely remain open until, at least the end of the year 2001, when I finish my term as Congregational Leader.

[AYE], thank you for walking this journey of reconciliation with the Sisters. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance to you. Until then, I will hold you in my thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes

Di-Anne Rowan