

E

Mercy Administration Centre

ROCKHAMPTON CONGREGATION
OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY
OF AUSTRALIA



The Range,
263 Agnes Street,
Rockhampton Q. 4700

P.O. Box 1576,
Rockhampton Q. 4700

Telephone: 07 4927 1866
Facsimile: 07 4922 3040

Email: rok_som@r130.aone.net.au

19 February 1998

Ms Mary Eather
Secretary NASG
P O Box 350
PARADISE POINT
GOLD COAST Q 4216

Dear Mary,

Please find enclosed copies of letters to the former residents who requested a face to face meeting with Sisters who worked at St Joseph's Home, Neerkol.

Thank you for all that you have done to facilitate this process. I am sorry that it has taken such a long time but it seemed important to handle these requests as carefully and sensitively as we could so that no more hurt would be done to the former residents of St Joseph's.

Some of the Sisters that people wanted to meet with are deceased while age and ill health make it impossible for others to participate in face to face meetings. In one instance, I believe that a Sister's memories of Neerkol are so different from those who wish to meet her, that there would not be any benefit in any such meeting. John Briton also met with these Sisters and I believe he would agree with the judgements that I formed about the inadvisability of such meetings with some of the Sisters.

There is one Sister, Sr Mary St Pius, who has indicated a willingness to meet with **REDACTED** and **REDACTE** in response to their requests.

On the advice of John Briton, I contacted Peter Condliffe of the Alternative Dispute Resolutions Branch of the Department of Justice and asked him if he could facilitate such a meeting process. Peter believes he has a Project Officer, Marianne Dredge, who has the expertise to arrange such face to face meetings between victims and offenders. I would expect John Briton has already passed this information on to you and I believe he has been in contact with **REDAC** and **RED** to suggest a time for an initial meeting with Marianne. Peter or Marianne can be contacted at the ADR branch on (07) 32396278.

I hope this process will be another important step forward in our search for healing and reconciliation.

Thank you again for your assistance and the time you have so generously given to this process. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Di Anne

Di-Anne Rowan
Congregational Leader