

24-JAN. '97 (FRI) 16:08

CHILDRENS COMMISSION

TEL: 61 7 32475507

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CHILDREN'S COMMISSION
OF QUEENSLAND

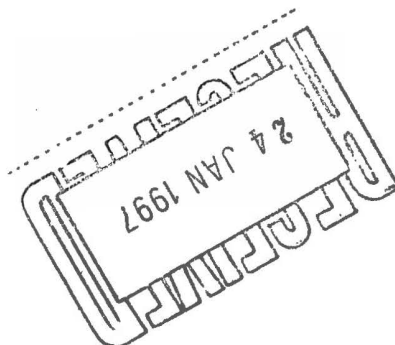
Telephone: (07) 3247 5525

Reference:

Refer To:

Your Ref:

24 January 1997



Sr Berneice Loch RSM
Congregational Leader
Mercy Administration Centre
PO Box 1576
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700

Dear Sr Berneice

You will probably be aware that I was recently appointed the State's first Children's Commissioner.

Minister Kev Lingard, in keeping with his undertaking to Parliament of 13 September last, has asked me to review various allegations concerning the *treatment of a number of former residents of Neerkol*.

He has also advised me of your offer of complete co-operation in this task. I greatly appreciate your kind offer.

As a first step, I propose to *seek a meeting with the Commissioner of Police* to be briefed on any police investigations that are in train. I would also appreciate an early meeting with you to explore how we might proceed.

I note that you and your colleagues have been working on a process for dealing with allegations of abuse of children in care. This seems to me to be a commendable approach. If there is any documentation that has been developed which I might usefully acquaint myself with, I would welcome a copy.

If you were likely to be in Brisbane in the relatively near future, perhaps we might be able to hold a preliminary meeting. Please contact my Executive Assistant, Delys Haskett (07) 3247 5518 to arrange a suitable time. Otherwise, I would be happy to travel to Rockhampton to meet with you.

Yours sincerely

Norman D Alford
Children's Commissioner

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