

**MEDIA RELEASE ISSUED ON 3 JUNE 2002 BY SR MOIRA TRUELSON,
CONGREGATIONAL LEADER OF THE ROCKHAMPTON SISTERS OF MERCY,
RELATING TO A QUERY REGARDING
THE NEERKOL OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS.**

Sr Moira said that the confidentiality clauses ~~pertain~~ed in the out-of-court settlements reached some three (3) years ago with some former residents of Neerkol only related to the terms of the out-of-court settlement.

“Former Neerkol residents have always been completely free to speak openly about their experiences at Neerkol and nothing in the out-of-court settlement Agreements in any way restricted that freedom” Sr Moira said.

Sr Moira said that she understood confidentiality clauses relating to settlement terms were standard in most out-of-court Agreements and she also understood that lawyers for both the Former Residents and the Sisters were happy to have the confidentiality clause contained in the ~~Agreement~~. Agreements.

Sr Moira said that in addition to the out-of-court settlements that many residents accepted, former residents of Neerkol would still accept counselling assistance through the Professional Standards Office that the Sisters established some (5) five years ago.

“Many former residents have received assistance through the Professional Standards Office and continue to do so today. Although we have only limited funds, we will continue to offer assistance to former Neerkol residents through the Professional Standards Office for as long as possible” Sr Moira said.

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