

Mons. Christopher Prowse
Vicar General
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
P.O. Box 146
East Melbourne 3002

RECEIVED
11 APR 2003

BY:.....

2nd April 2003

Anthony and Christine Foster

REDACTED

Oakleigh 3166

Dear Mons Prowse

We have been advised by Ms Elizabeth Harding and Prof Richard Ball of Carelink to write to you with our request, as they are unable to be of assistance.

As you are aware, our daughter Emma Foster was sexually assaulted by Father Kevin O'Donnell while she was a student at Sacred Heart Primary School Oakleigh. Mr Peter O'Callaghan can give you more information if you so require.

Because of Emma's long history of depression, self harm and substance abuse we are no longer able to care for her in the family home. Recently, after spending about 2 weeks in Monash Hospital, the Psychiatric Unit discharged her to an Aged Special Accommodation Home in South Clayton. Emma is 21 years of age and was sharing a room with a 75 year old woman. This accommodation was for 1 week only, that week finished the 28th March. She spent the weekend at a friend's house and is now in emergency short-term accommodation.

Emma is trying to enter the Lighthouse Programme which is housing for young homeless people, but there is a 3 month waiting period. Other programmes and similar assisted accommodation also have a waiting period or are full. Emma's problems stem from the prolonged abuse she suffered as a small child at a catholic primary school at the hands of a catholic priest. Carelink tell us they can do nothing for Emma with respect to provision or funding of accommodation.

We are writing on Emma's behalf to see what you can do to provide somewhere for her to live. I believe the Catholic Church has a duty of care to Emma.

Sincerely,

 

Christine Foster

Anthony Foster