



James Goold House
P.O. Box 146
East Melbourne Vic 3002
Australia

8 December 2010

Ms Carmel Rafferty

REDACTED

Dear Ms Rafferty

I am writing to acknowledge the outcome of the investigation by Mr Peter O'Callaghan QC into complaints that you have made in relation to your employment as a teacher at the Holy Family School at Doveton and your resignation from that position in 1993.

Mr O'Callaghan's recommendations, which I have accepted, are based upon his findings regarding conduct by the then Parish Priest, Peter Searson, which was on any view unacceptable conduct on the part of a priest. You have, understandably, suffered significant hardship and distress as a result of Father Searson's conduct and its consequences within the school environment.

Regrettably it has taken a long period to resolve your complaints, although I am pleased that we have finally achieved a resolution.

I am writing to you, on behalf of the Catholic Church and personally, to apologise to you and to those around you for the wrongs and the hurt that you suffered at the hands of Father Peter Searson. I hope and pray that the resolution that we have achieved will give you some measure of peace and justice and that you will accept my prayers and best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely in Christ

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE