

The Archbishop of Melbourne,
 Rev. Sir Frances Little,
 Catholic Education Office,
 Box 146 P.O.,
 East Melbourne. 3002.

29th October, 1986.

Your Grace,

As principals from the 'Wantirna South' zone of schools, we would like to express our concerns about the implications of any situations where principals have resigned, apparently as a result of stress induced by a deterioration in the relationship between themselves and their Parish Priest.

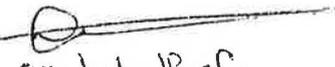
A recent such resignation is that of Graeme Sleeman, the principal of 'Holy Family School, Doveton', a situation that has been widely publicised in the local press. Although none of us can claim to be fully informed on all that happened there, we are deeply concerned about both Graeme and his family on the one hand, and the welfare of the Doveton community on the other.

While recognising the valuable work done by zone consultants and in particular by Allan Dooley, (our own consultant) in the conflict resolutions that do occur from time to time, we still feel that more can be done to ensure the longterm morale, job satisfaction and sense of security of all principals.

We do not want to judge what occurred at Doveton, but we feel that the available processes for reconciliation ought to be examined at a Church and system level, in order to prevent future situations from becoming irreconcilable, where possible. Currently this 'resolution process' is not clearly understood and it is seen by us as favouring the Parish Priest, rather than the principal and the community, regardless of principles of "justice".

We urge that serious consideration be given to finding systemic strategies which will meet the above concerns and which will assist in the ongoing development of the sort of harmonious relationships which form the majority of principal/parish priest interactions.

Yours in Christ,


 on behalf of

THE WANTIRNA SOUTH PRINCIPAL'S FRATERNAL.