

14th May 2005

Bishop Julian Porteous VG
Administrator, Archdiocese of Sydney
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Bishop Porteous,

I have been puzzling over your letter to me of 6th April. Actually, I had written a comprehensive reply to it, but the more I thought about it, the more convinced I became that you had not been fully briefed about the meeting which Mr. David Landa and I had with Monsignor Rayner and Mr. Michael Salmon following the presentation to them of the Interim Review Panel's report.

It is now clear to me that your letter was sent off to me before we all met in the Polding Centre on the afternoon of 7th April.

At that meeting Mr. Landa and I made it clear that we believed that no apology should be proffered to Mr. Ellis while he was pursuing litigation against the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of Sydney. We also stressed that any contact by the Archdiocese with Mr. Ellis should be through the Archdiocese's solicitors. We were equally definite on the view that a *Towards Healing* process cannot be followed simultaneously with litigation.

So, might I suggest that you and I meet to resolve how best to deal with your expressed dissatisfaction of the Interim Review Panel's report.

I am leaving for Rome this afternoon to attend a meeting of representatives from the Anglophone Bishops Conferences on issues relating to sexual misconduct by religious and clerics. I will be back in the office on Wednesday 25th May.

Best wishes to you and may God bless you in your demanding ministry of leadership in our Church.

Sincerely,

R. Julian McDonald cfc
Executive Officer