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St. Joseph's Presbytery
126 Liverpool Road,
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10 August, 1995

Rev M McKenna
Secretary
Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference
GPO Box 368
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Fr Michael

I am writing to you regarding the research project into the treatment possibilities for paedophilia and other forms of sexual abuse to be conducted under the auspice of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes.

A consortium of three partners, namely the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission, Centacare Sydney and Dr Alex Blaszczyński (Head of the Behavioural Disorders Unit, University of NSW), have been commissioned to undertake the project. Father David Cappo (National Director, Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission) and Mr Bill Johnston (Research Officer, Centacare Sydney) will be the principle researchers. The project will be supervised by the Bishops' Professional Standards Committee. Father John Usher, a member of the Bishops' Professional Standards Committee and Director of Centacare Sydney, will represent the Committee in the consultation of therapists (Stage Two of the research project).

The project will include the following process:

1. A thorough and current literature review of the area which will be distributed to all Bishops and Congregational Leaders;
2. Group consultations in capital cities with key therapists who have experience in the treatment of paedophilia and other forms of sexual abuse;
3. Presentation to Bishops and to Congregational Leaders on the findings of the consultation with leading therapists;
4. Discussions in early 1996 with individual Bishops and the ACLRI Executive Committee regarding personal responses to the recommendations of the project team; and
5. Final Report with recommendations to the ACBC and the ACLRI by the April 1996 meeting of the ACBC.

In order to facilitate the consultation with therapists in your State it would be helpful if you would pass on this information to the Chair of your Professional Standards Reference Group or to the Regional Professional Standards Group whichever is applicable. Father Cappo and Mr Johnson will be in contact with Professional Standards Reference Groups in order to seek the names and details of therapists who should be invited to the various State consultations in September and October.

I anticipate that this project will provide us all with practical and detailed recommendations regarding the types of treatment programs and the application to specific groups of offenders.

Yours sincerely

Bishop Geoff Robinson
Bishops Professional Standards Committee