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To the Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes of Australia

Dear Friends,

At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April, the Board of Encompass Australasia made the decision to close the Melbourne office of the organisation.

The reasons, as you are aware, are financial, and it was Professor Ball himself who advised that the closure be carried out now rather than let the office bleed to death.

The closure will take effect at the end of May, subject to proper provision being made for the ongoing care of the present clients of the office.

It is with regret that this decision has been made, for the reorganised Melbourne office was giving a high calibre of service.

It is of great concern to the Board that many priests, brothers and nuns who could and should have been referred to Encompass have not been referred. In particular, anyone not too old to offend is not too old for treatment.

The Board repeats its conviction that the team model of assessment and treatment offered by Encompass is markedly superior to that offered by any single psychiatrist or psychologist.

The Sydney office of Encompass is in no danger of closure and is available to take any clients referred to it for assessment and treatment. It is also available for cases of self-referral, where a priest or religious seeks assistance without first speaking to any church authority.

The Wood Royal Commission in NSW said of Encompass, "The model developed is, on any view, comprehensive, impressive and innovative." I invite your support for this valuable resource.

Yours sincerely,

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson  
Chairman of the Board