

Professional Standards Office

Established by the Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes
of the Catholic Church
in NSW and the ACT

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17 September 2004

Mr John Ellis

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Dear John,

RE: Towards Healing

I refer to your letter dated 9.9.04.

In particular I am able to confirm that the Professional Standards Resource Group will be updated on the status of the file, and that the *Towards Healing* process is always able to be formally reactivated following the finalisation of litigation.

Furthermore, with reference to the Review of Process, I can confirm that every document held by this office relating to your matter inclusive of your actual email of 4/8/04 was made available to the nominated person charged with the assessment of your application.

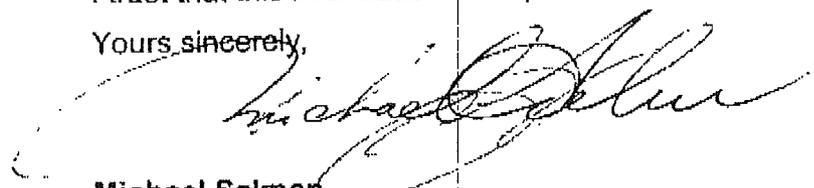
John, in reply to your query concerning the cessation of the *Towards Healing* process whilst litigation is intrain, I simply make the comment that it is deemed to be prudent practice by the Church Authorities to not promote a process which in a worse case scenario has the distinct potential to cause mutually prejudicial conduct and miscommunication.

The position of the Church Authority in regard to this issue is predicated on the reality that *Towards Healing* is a Church auspiced pastoral regime with all the nuances implied, as against civil and criminal law actions which by definition demand other accountabilities to achieve necessarily different outcomes.

John, I do not believe that in our previous discussions I would have informed that the *Towards Healing* process would have progressed in the face of litigation. Perhaps, there was some confusion as I am sure I would have stated words to the effect that *Towards Healing* is not necessarily terminated where financial negotiation is activated on a lawyer to lawyer basis. As you are aware such a situation is quite distinct from the formal commencement of legal action through the courts.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,


Michael Salmon

Director - Professional Standards Office