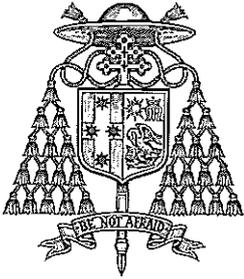


Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000



1 May 2009

Mr Anthony Scarcella
President (NSW)
Australian Lawyers Alliance
GPO Box 7052
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Scarcella,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2009, receipt of which was acknowledged by my secretary on 13 March during my absence overseas. Please accept my congratulations on your appointment as president of the Australian Lawyers Alliance.

Many of the matters you have raised in your letter were previously canvassed by your predecessor, Mr Stack, in his letters to me of 26 May and 30 June 2008. I have responded to these points in my replies to Mr Stack and have nothing further to add. Naturally, I am happy to clarify points from that earlier correspondence and to respond to any new issues you raise in your letter, which I will try to do here.

Firstly, you have raised an issue about my jurisdiction. As pointed out to Mr Stack, my jurisdiction is limited to the Archdiocese of Sydney. Therefore I can only speak about the approach of the Archdiocese of Sydney in the matters you have raised. I am unable to comment on the manner in which other cases or claims are being conducted, either by other dioceses or by the relevant insurer, as they are outside my own jurisdiction. I am not aware of other dioceses in New South Wales utilising the same firm of solicitors as the Archdiocese of Sydney in litigation in this area.

There is no contradiction between the limits of my jurisdiction as Archbishop of Sydney and the adherence of the Archdiocese of Sydney, as part of the Catholic Church in Australia, to a unified national policy for investigating complaints of sexual abuse and for providing support, assistance and care to the victims of such abuse. The Towards Healing protocol establishes in every state and territory the principles and procedures for responding to complaints of sexual abuse by clergy. Under this protocol the Archdiocese is actively committed to ensuring that victims of clerical sexual abuse are supported and assisted, usually through counselling and financial support. Towards Healing is regularly reviewed both internally by those who administer it and externally, with an external review by a leading legal academic currently underway.



information of the what was done to follow-up his testimony, but I can advise that the Archdiocese, through the Professional Standards Office which administers Towards Healing in New South Wales, has engaged with Mr SA to acknowledge his complaint and to provide support for him, which is ongoing at this time.

Thank you again for your letter.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

+ George Leonard Pell

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY