



Royal Commission into  
Institutional Responses to  
Child Sexual Abuse

**PUBLIC HEARING INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON TO  
ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AT THE NORTH COAST CHILDREN'S HOME**

**CHRONOLOGY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Reference<sup>1</sup></b>
1919	Establishment of the North Coast Children's Home (NCCH) by Reverend AR Ebbs, Rector of Lismore and others	SJH14, SJH19
14 Nov 1968	Bishop James Housden of Newcastle <sup>2</sup> suggests to Bishop of Grafton that Reverend Allan Kitchingman be transferred to Grafton after Rev Kitchingman's trial	TB9
4 Dec 1968	Bishop Housden provides reference to Judge Muir, Chairman of the Newcastle Quarter Sessions, in relation to Rev Kitchingman's upcoming sentencing hearing	PG6
15 Dec 1968	Rev Kitchingman sentenced for indecent assault of a 16 year old male and released on own recognizance, to be of good behaviour for two years	TB158
23 Dec 1968	Bishop of Grafton assures Bishop of Newcastle that following Rev Kitchingman's transfer he will be serving alongside Archdeacon John Robinson, Rector of Lismore	TB11
3 Jan 1969	Rev Kitchingman nominated as Curate, St Andrew's Church, Lismore	TB13
1975	Rev Kitchingman indecently assaults CH numerous times	PG3
28 Jun 1976	Rev Kitchingman resigns from Parish of Lismore and moves to Parish of Mullumbimby	TB14
25 July 2001	Rev Kitchingman arrested and charged with indecent assault (of CH)	TB157
1 Nov 2001	Reverend Campbell Brown granted licence to officiate in Bathurst	TB15A

<sup>1</sup> Witnesses are referred to by their initials. Initials followed by a number without brackets refers to an annexure to the witness's statement (eg PG4). Square brackets after initials refer to the paragraph of a statement (eg PG [4]). References to documents in the tender bundle are referred to as 'TB' (eg TB4). References to volume 3 of the tender bundle are referred to as 'TB3' (eg TB3:4).

<sup>2</sup> The Dioceses of Newcastle, Grafton, Sydney, Bathurst and Brisbane are referred to without 'Diocese of'.

15 Mar 2002	Standing Committee of the General Synod apologises for child sexual abuse; establishes working group to develop model professional standards ordinance and protocol	PG [16-17]
19 Apr 2002	Rev Kitchingman pleads guilty at Newcastle Local Court to five counts of indecent assault upon a male (CH)	PG3, TB157
5 Aug 2002	Rev Kitchingman sentenced at Newcastle District Court by Coolahan DCJ to a term of imprisonment, non-parole period of 18 months	PG3
10 Sep 2002	Bishop Roger Herft of Newcastle speaks with Bishop Philip Huggins of Grafton about Rev Kitchingman conviction	RH6
12 Sept 2002	Paul Rosser QC, Chancellor of Newcastle, informs the Office of the DPP on Bishop Herft's behalf of Kitchingman's 1968 conviction	RH10
27 June 2004	Grafton Synod passes Professional Standards Ordinance 2004	TB3:1
29 July 2004	Bishop-in-Council of Grafton adopts Protocol for Handling of Complaints of Sexual Abuse 2004	TB3:2
24 Aug 2004	Philip Gerber is appointed to Professional Standards Committee, Grafton	PG1
29 Aug 2005	Richard "Tommy" Campion writes to Anglican Church of Australia concerning abuse he received at NCCH	PG12
2 Sept 2005	Reverend Pat Comben, Registrar of Grafton writes to Campion acknowledging letter of 29 August 2005	PG13
2 Oct 2005	Rev Comben provides Campion with copy of Pastoral Care and Assistance Package 'Frequently Asked Questions' and mentions internal discipline process for one clergyman	PG18, RC5
20 Oct 2005	CA writes to Rev Comben concerning abuse she received at the NCCH	PG20
22 Nov 2005	Rev Comben writes back to CA acknowledging her letter	PG21
24 Nov 2005	Bishop-in-Council approves Care and Assistance Package of the Diocese of Sydney	TB3:4A, TB23C
9 Dec 2005	Rev Comben recommends to Bishop Slater that Grafton make a payment of \$54,500 to a claimant of sexual abuse following investigation by Professional Standards	TB24

	Committee and referral to Professional Standards Board (unrelated to the NCCH)	
5 Jan 2006	Simon Harrison of Nicol, Robinson Halletts writes to Rev Comben to advise he represents 20 former residents of NCCH in claims of abuse against Grafton	SJH1
16 Jan 2006	Rev Comben instructs Peter Roland of Foott, Law and Co to act for the Diocese	TB25
15 Feb 2006	Rev Comben advises Campion that Grafton cannot make an open ended commitment to fund counselling	RC9
1 Mar 2006	Roland rejects idea of a general conference with Harrison until the group claims are better particularised	SJH4
17 Mar 2006	Roland is told by Abbott Tout that Grafton is not insured for claims of sexual abuse	TB27
18 May 2006	Roland discusses with Harrison counselling for the claimants, evidential basis for claims, insurance coverage for compensation, and mediation	SJH10
7 June 2006	Settlement by Grafton of care and assistance package in another matter for \$37,500	TB34
15 Sept 2006	Harrison provides letter and submissions enclosing basis for asserting liability with supporting documentation, and seeks informal conference	SJH14
Sept 2006	Harrison provides statutory declarations of all claimants to Roland	SJH [29]
26 Sept 2006	Rev Comben provides summary of statutory declarations to Roland	TB39
26 Sept 2006	Northern Star publishes interview with Rev Comben	SJH [26], SJH15
10 Oct 2006	Roland writes to Harrison and provides Rev Comben's refutation of Harrison's 15 Sep 2006 submissions	SJH19
13 Nov 2006	Harrison writes to Roland and sets out offers for claimants broken into bands from \$40,000 to \$100,000	SJH21, SJH [32]
6 Dec 2006	Conference between Roland, Garth Blake SC and Stephen Sheaffe in relation to the group claim	TB48
7 Dec 2006	Blake provides short letter of advice to Roland	TB50
8 Dec 2006	Dr Philip Aspinall, Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia and Archbishop of Brisbane, writes to Bishop	AP2, SJH28

	Slater and Harrison including 6 principles which he stands by for dealing with claims of sexual abuse	
14 Dec 2006	Roland writes to Harrison proposing principles for negotiation and alternative structures for settlement	SJH31
14 Dec 2006	Roland writes to Harrison denying liability for all claims	SJH32
19 Dec 2006	Gerber writes three letters to police concerning allegations against Rev Brown, Reverend Winston Morgan and CL	PG36, PG37, PG38
19-20 Dec 2006	Settlement conference between Harrison, Rev Comben and Roland; conference ends with Diocese having offered \$750,000 to settle all claims and the claimants having offered \$1.2m	SJH34, SJH [46-48], TB55
9 Jan 2007	Harrison writes to clients about status of settlement negotiations	SJH40
24 Jan 2007	Harrison puts further counter offer of \$950,000 for 38 claimants	SJH41
5 Feb 2007	Rev Comben advises Roland, who advises Harrison, that Bishop-in-Council has rejected offer of \$950,000	SJH42
22 Feb 2007	Bishop-in-Council approves settlement of group claims up to \$950,000	TB66
7 Mar 2006	Rev Comben advises Roland that he is willing to settle for \$825,000	TB69
19 Mar 2007	Harrison informs clients of settlement offer of global sum of \$825,000, being three bands of \$16,658.54, \$20,658.54 and \$22,658.54, less 50% legal costs	RC17
22 Mar 2007	Campion rejects offer of \$22,658.54	RC18
29 Mar 2007	Harrison writes to CK with advice about commencing litigation	TB71A
9 May 2007	Archbishop Aspinall encourages Bishop Slater to continue Campion's counselling	AP10
12 May 2007	Campion writes to Bishop Slater concerning disciplinary action against Rev Brown	RC27
15 May 2007	Harrison informs Roland that written apologies are sought from 29 claimants and a further 3 require personal apologies in person from Bishop Slater	SJH69
23 May 2007	Campion writes to Archbishop Aspinall about CD	AP11

29 May 2007	Archbishop Aspinall forwards Champion's letter to Bishop Slater and encourages him to report matters to the police	AP12
31 May 2007	Rod McLary, Professional Standards Director for Brisbane, refers Champion's letter about CD to the police	RM18
14 Jun 2007	Rev Comben writes to Roland enclosing draft apology	TB81
19 Jun 2007	Roland forwards Harrison trust account cheque for \$698,007.07 and 38 signed deeds of release	SJH71, SJH72
3 Jul 2007	Meeting between Bishop Slater, Jenni Woodhouse, Champion and CA	TB82, JW7, RC [80-81], JW [45-49], PG [79]
30 Jul 2007	Champion confirms that he is seeking compensation	RC42
14 Aug 2007	Bishop Slater writes to Champion and CA offering compensation at same rate as previously offered	RC46
15 Oct 2007	Champion responds to Bishop Slater's letter of 14 August 2007	TB95
16 Oct 2007	CA responds to Bishop Slater's letter of 14 August 2007	CA16
25 Oct 2007	Bishop Brian Farran of Newcastle agrees to grant a Permission to Officiate to Rev Brown	TB97
21 Nov 2007	Archbishop Aspinall suggests use of a mediator to Bishop Slater	TB98
4 Dec 2007	Insurer's lawyers pay \$250,000 to settle CH litigation	TB101
6 Dec 2007	Bishop-in-Council commits to long term financial support for Clarence Valley Anglican School including providing an irrevocable guarantee utilising Diocesan assets of \$13m	TB101A
31 Dec 2007	Sydney Professional Standards Unit ceases providing services to Grafton	PG43
5 Feb 2008	CD writes to Bishop Slater concerning abuse he received at NCCH	TB106
20 Feb 2008	Rev Kitchingman settles with CH	TB111
21 Feb 2008	Bishop Slater offers CD a compensation package based on amount negotiated with group claimants	TB112
26 Feb 2008	CD writes to Bishop Slater stating he accepts the offer of \$22,658	TB114

2 Oct 2008	Harrison (now with Herbert Geer) writes to Foot Law & Co concerning three new claimants (former residents of the NCCH)	SJH74
Jan 2009	Michael Elliott commences as Professional Standards Director, Diocese of Newcastle; servicing Diocese of Grafton, Armidale	ME [7]
23 Jan 2009	Harrison names three new claimants (CE, CF and CG) in correspondence with Roland, seeks settlement on same basis as group claim	SJH80
29 Jan 2009	Rev Comben writes to Roland and instructs him not to entertain a further claim from Herbert Geer until "proper basis" made	TB124
12 Feb 2009	Roland writes to Harrison to advise no basis for liability for additional three claimants and says Diocese not prepared to offer settlements on the same basis as earlier settlements	SJH81
18 May 2009	Bishop-in-Council agrees to funding of part of \$12m debt of Clarence Valley Anglican School	TB125D
Dec 2009	Rev Comben resigns as Registrar for Grafton and commences part time at Grafton as Business Adviser; Rosie Catt appointed as Acting Registrar	ME12
14 Jun 2010	Campion accepts offer of compensation	TB126
17 Jun 2010	Roland writes to Campion confirming compensation amount of \$32,813.00 including interest to date	RC90
16 Aug 2010	Bishop Slater signs written apology to Campion	RC91
24 Aug 2010	Rev Comben signs written apology to Campion	RC93
12 Oct 2010	Campion signs deed of release	RC94
30 Nov 2010	Roland writes to Herbert Geer refusing to make any ex gratia payments to CE, CF or CG	TB127
20-21 Jan 2011	Catt resigns and Anthony Newby commences as Acting Registrar for Grafton	ME26
Undated	CC writes to Bishop Slater concerning abuse she received at NCCH	AN4
4 Feb 2011	CC writes again to Bishop Slater	AN5
24 Feb 2011	Bishop Slater writes to CC and offers to put CC in touch with a priest in her area	TB128

5 Mar 2011	CB writes to Bishop Slater concerning abuse he received at NCCH	AH12
4 Apr 2011	Roland writes to CB and CC denying liability, offering appointment of a support person	AH13, AH14
29 June 2011	Roland writes to Herbert Geer stating that Grafton is not prepared to offer settlement to CE, CF or CG on the same basis as earlier settlements, but is prepared to offer appointment of a support person	SJH83
14 Jul 2011	CB writes to Bishop Slater	AN11
28 July 2011	Bishop Slater writes to CB asking whether he should continue to try and locate a support person for CB	TB135
21 Feb 2012	CA writes to Roland stating that she wishes to accept the initial compensation package offered to the group claimants	CA20
27 Feb 2012	Roland writes to CA stating that no settlement has been agreed to in relation to CA's claim and that Roland's file on CA is closed	CA21
5 and 6 Apr 2012	Archbishop Aspinall speaks with Tom Blackburn SC, Chancellor of Grafton, about involvement of Tony Fitzgerald in meeting between Campion and Blake SC	TB151, AP22
27 Apr 2012	Roland offers CA a "pastoral support package" being the appointment of a support person	CA23
9 May 2012	Archbishop Aspinall meets with Campion and Tony Madden, former DOCS manager	RC95
27 Jun 2012	Archbishop Aspinall writes to Bishop Slater concerned that his offers of support and guidance have been rejected or ignored	TB141
14 Aug 2012	Blake provides advice on who had a duty of care to the children at the NCCH	TB142
22 Nov 2012	Grafton Bishop-in-Council calls for an audit of sexual abuse claims in Grafton; Newby goes on sick leave	AH5
Dec 2012	Anne Hywood commences as Acting Registrar while Newby on sick leave	AH5, AH [3], AH [28]
22 Jan 2013	Hywood refers CB, CC and a summary of the 41 earlier claims to Elliott	ME31
21 Jan 2013	Campion writes to Bishop Slater seeking a public apology to all abused in NCCH	RC97

1 May 2013	Hywood writes to Archbishop Aspinall about complaints-handling by Grafton in relation to the NCCH	AH18
10 May 2013	Archbishop Aspinall, Bishop Slater and Martin Drevikovsky, General Secretary of General Synod, meet in Sydney	TB146
17 May 2013	Bishop Slater resigns and issues press release	AH22, TB151A
7 Jun 2013	Bishop-in-Council meets, confirms Archdeacon Greg Ezzy as Administrator for Grafton	AH24
12 Jun 2013	Rev Brown relinquishes licence to officiate in Bathurst	ME45, TB155
5 Sept 2013	Archdeacon Ezzy publishes apology to NCCH abuse victims in several newspapers	AH26, GE20