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I told in Sept/Oct 1992 when he would
have been 32-33yo - not in his 20s at all

The Advocate, Saturday, March 16, 2002

Church again under fire

Archbishop forced to defend writing reference for Burnie paedophile

By Helen Kempton

THE Anglican Church is again in the media spotlight and this time the controversy involves a former arch-deacon of Burnie, a convicted paedophile.

Less than a month ago, Governor-General and former Archbishop of Brisbane Peter Hollingworth hit the headlines when it was claimed he covered up allegations of sexual abuse.

Now, the current Archbishop of Brisbane Phillip Aspinall has needed to defend his actions in regard to Louis Victor Daniels, who was arch-deacon of Burnie in the 1990s.

Charges of indecent assault were laid against Daniels after an Anglican Church inquiry into sexual miscon-

duct by Tasmanian priests in 1998.

In May the next year, Daniels pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 12 months' jail in the Supreme Court in Hobart.

The court heard the charges related to Daniels' relationship with a 15-year-old boy between February and April, 1992.

Daniels was 45 at the time and working in Burnie.

Dr Aspinall is in the firing line because he wrote a reference for Daniels for consideration by the court prior to his sentencing.

"The reference I wrote for consideration by the court has been a matter of public record for close to three years," Dr Aspinall (42) said yesterday.

"It was not tendered in secret. It

did not minimise the damage caused nor the gravity of Daniels' abusive behaviour and I do not intend to do that now.

"I wrote it after being contacted by Daniels' solicitor, who, in making the request for a reference, informed me Daniels had pleaded guilty.

"Sentencing hearings are held before a judge who is privy to all facts of the case presented. It involves weighing the bad done along with the good done in a person's life."

Dr Aspinall has known Daniels since he was eight and in the Church of England Boys Society.

"I do not seek to excuse or explain his proven abuse," he said yesterday.

Dr Aspinall said he was again in contact with Daniels through regular meetings and church activities as

part of his youth and education work in Tasmania.

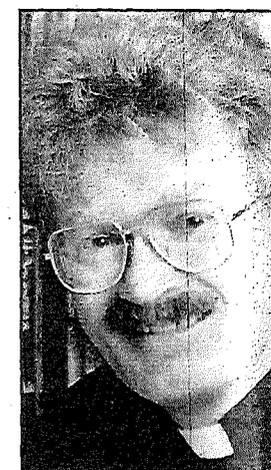
"Again I saw nothing which gave any indication of abusive behaviour," he said.

"I recall only once, prior to charges being laid, hearing an allegation that Daniels was involved in inappropriate behaviour.

"This came from a woman, who told me in that conversation she had taken the matter to the Bishop of Tasmania.

"The allegations struck me, then in my early 20s, as inconsistent with my experience of Daniels.

"She had reported the matter to the proper authority, however, and I presumed that those matters would be properly addressed."



Mr Daniels

New-look wind farm road

By Claire Turfrey

AN IMPORTANT step in the development of the Woolnorth wind farm has been completed with the newly sealed access road being officially opened yesterday.

After controversy last year concerning the state of the road and who would cover the cost of improve-



Censors find ET could be harmful

CANBERRA -- Bambi beware, Australia's censors yesterday slapped a PG rating on one of the world's most loved children's films, *ET*.

A three-member panel of the Classification Review Board yesterday agreed to uphold