

Our reference  
RAL/CATH5800-5683690

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16 June 2011

Mr AFA

REDACTED

Contact

Richard Leder (03) 9672 3489  
Email: richard.leder@corrs.com.au

Dear AFA

## Offer of compensation

As you may know, we act for the Archbishop of Melbourne and for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We are instructed that following a finding by the Independent Commissioner dated 30 May 2011 (**Independent Commissioner's findings**) that upheld your complaint, you have made an application to the Melbourne Response's Compensation Panel for ex gratia compensation.

This letter contains an offer, and is a genuine attempt to provide an alternative to litigation.

The compensation offer, together with the services that remain available through Carelink, are offered to you by the Archbishop in the hope that they will assist your recovery. Importantly, it is also hoped that you will in time be able to put the abuse you have suffered behind you and focus on the future. **Enclosed** is a personal letter to you from the Archbishop.

The Compensation Panel has recommended to the Archbishop that you be offered compensation in the sum of \$50,000. **Enclosed** for your information is a copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Panel to the Archbishop containing the recommendation.

In accordance with the procedure established by the Archbishop, we are instructed to offer this amount to you. If you wish to accept it, you will need to sign the **enclosed** document which releases the Archbishop from all further claims arising out of the Independent Commissioner's findings. We note, however, that you will remain able to receive treatment and counselling through Carelink. We have **enclosed** two copies of the Release. Assuming that you wish to sign the Release, you should sign one copy for return to us and retain the second copy for your records.

The Release that you sign contains **no** confidentiality provisions. Whilst your right to confidentiality will be respected if that is your wish, you are under no confidentiality restrictions if you accept the offer. You are free to discuss the abuse and the payment you have received if you want to.

If you reject the offer, you remain bound by the terms of the application for compensation form. This offer is put on a "without prejudice" basis, in order to preserve the rights of all concerned if your claim proceeds to court. The only matters that you are asked to keep

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confidential are the details of your application to the Panel and this "without prejudice" offer. However, there are no restrictions on you discussing the circumstances of the abuse and its effect on you, whether publicly or in any other forum.

The Archbishop and the Archdiocese acknowledge that for some applicants, the ability to speak publicly about the abuse they have suffered is important. Applicants to the Compensation Panel have never been restricted from speaking publicly about this, and the Archbishop wishes to assure you that you have every right to make your allegations public if you so wish.

Would you please advise us in due course whether you will accept the offer. Upon return of the signed Release we will forward to you a cheque for the agreed amount.

If you have any queries, please contact the writer.

Yours faithfully  
**Corrs Chambers Westgarth**



**Richard Leder**  
Partner

**attachments**