

David J. Habersberger, Q.C.
Owen Dixon Chambers West
205 William Street
Melbourne, Vic. 3000

Tel. (03) 9608 7506

Fax. (03) 9670 0273

8th July, 1998.

Mr and Mrs Anthony Foster,
REDACTED
OAKLEIGH, VIC. 3166

Dear Mr and Mrs Foster,

Compensation Panel
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Mr Peter O'Callaghan Q.C. has written to me as Chairman of the Compensation Panel informing me that he is satisfied that your daughter, Emma, was a victim of sexual abuse by Father O'Donnell.

The Panel proposes to meet to discuss Emma's application on Tuesday, 11 August 1998 at 6.15 p.m. The meeting will take place at 402 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

The Panel offers each applicant the opportunity to meet with it at that time. To date the Panel has found these informal meetings very helpful in its deliberations and believes that applicants have also found them to be useful and not as traumatic as they may have feared. Because the Panel acts on the finding of sexual abuse by Mr O'Callaghan, there is no need for Emma to repeat the events of the past on which that finding has been based.

Assuming that the date and time are convenient, it would be appreciated if you and/or Emma could meet with the Panel at the specified time, for approximately 30 minutes. You are free to bring anyone else with you to the meeting if you wish. However, there is no requirement for you or Emma to attend. It is entirely a matter for you. I can assure you that whatever course you adopt, Emma's application will not be prejudiced. Perhaps you could telephone me before next Tuesday to let me know what you have decided.

If you have any further information that you want to place before the Panel, please forward it to me as soon as possible. I note that the Panel has been provided with copies of:

- (a) Emma's application form;
- (b) Mrs Foster's letter to the Monash Medical Centre dated 22 March 1997 and its reply dated 7 April 1997;

- (c) Dr Blandthorn's report dated 5 December 1995;
- (d) the report from the South East Centre Against Sexual Assault dated 7 July 1997;
- (e) Dr Lapin's report dated 11 July 1997;
- (f) letter from Dr Schwarz to the Vicar-General dated 17 April 1997;
- (g) the report from Mr O'Callaghan Q.C. dated 29 April 1998.

If there are any difficulties with the proposed date and time or you would like to discuss any aspect of the meeting please telephone me on 9608 7506.

Yours sincerely,

David Habersberger

DAVID HABERSBERGER
Chairman
Compensation Panel.