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Diocesan Committee for Allegations of Sexual Misconduct
 Chairperson – Jean Sanders, 41 Morton Pde, Rankin Park, 2287
 Ph: REDACTED E-mail: jsand@REDACTED

October 19, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL
 The Right Reverend Roger Herft
 Bishop of Newcastle
 PO Box 817
 NEWCASTLE
 2300

Dear Bishop Roger,

I am writing to thank you for taking the time, prior to you leaving for your busy overseas commitments, to arrange for me to meet with the Dean. The Dean and I had a very worthwhile meeting.

You mentioned in your letter of September 10, 2003 that your impression was that I no longer had confidence in your support of both myself and the work of the Committee. The reverse, is of course, true. Your priority has always been the care of myself and complainants and respondents. I was deeply concerned from comments made to me and e-mails forwarded to me by the Diocesan Manager that he was going to undertake initial management of all issues, then distribute sexual harassment matters for management by contact persons. This would, of course, interfere with the rights of complainants to make their initial contact with an individual who does not have a possible 'conflict of interest'. As Bishop, you are seen and have always acted as an experienced and caring pastor. I am of course aware that when the national policy is implemented there will most probably be changes in the Bishop's responsibilities with regard to matters of sexual misconduct. Obviously, the Diocesan Manager is still 'finding' his way and was unclear as to your special pastoral role and my own role and that of contact persons, at this point of time. I am most grateful that this matter has been sorted.

The Revd. CKR A CKU Issue: I spoke briefly by telephone to Revd. CKR
 on three occasions while you were overseas. She seems to be coping a little better.

CKU remains anxious. I do not discuss legal issues surrounding this matter with the Revd. CKR so I don't know if it is proceeding. The Revd. Rosemary Gillham is also offering the Revd. CKR pastoral care, so I feel we are supporting her as best we can, at this stage. I do know that the Revd. CKR received a contribution of 50% of costs for professional services of a psychologist for her and CKU from the diocese and that was helpful.

Once again, thank you for your assistance with regard to resolving the recent issue concerning the role of the C.A.S.M. within the diocese.

Sincerely



JEAN SANDERS
CHAIRPERSON - C.A.S.M.