



SISTERS OF MERCY ROCKHAMPTON
MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF
SISTERS OF MERCY AUSTRALIA

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICE

29 November 07

Redress Services
Department of Communities
GPO Box 806
Brisbane Qld 4001

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o whom it may concern,

I am a professionally qualified social worker and have been working for the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy since 1998 as the response co-ordinator for their Professional Standards office. The majority of the people I have worked with are ex-residents of St Joseph's Home at Neerkol.

I am writing this letter in support of ' application for a level 2 payment in the Queensland Government Redress scheme. has also asked that I forward you a copy of the transcript of his interview at the Forde Inquiry. found it too distressing to have this document in his house and forwarded it to me when he received it.

initially made contact with in 1998 but he had been in contact with the person who was previously employed in my role. For many years I was calling weekly as a support. I have also met and his wife either at their home or at other venues throughout the years.

has disclosed physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect while he was a child at Neerkol. As an adult this has impacted on many facets of his life. Due to his lack of education and limited literacy skills, he frequently refers to himself as a "dumb bugger". This lack of confidence is despite his impressive woodworking and practical skills.

However the abuse which appears to have had the most significant impact on him is sexual abuse. He has had frequent nightmares and flashbacks. At times of stress, has also described numbing his distress with alcohol. It has also impacted on his ability to have an

THE RANGE
263 AGNES STREET (PO BOX 1576)
ROCKHAMPTON Q 4700

TEL: 1800 652080

ongoing sexual relationship with his wife. At times, particularly when he was required to attend court in Rockhampton, he described active suicide thoughts. I was so concerned at subsequent court appearances that I gave him my home phone number (which is something that I had never done before in over 20 years as a social worker).

I hope this information assists in the determination of application under the Redress Scheme for a level 2 payment.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Regards,



Irene Czokanski
B.Soc.Wk (University of Queensland 1981)
Response Co-ordinator