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The Anglican Church of Australia
The Most Reverend Dr. Phillip Aspinall
GPO Box 421
Brisbane QLD 4001

Richard 'Tommy' Campion

REDACTED

Dear Dr. Aspinall

Wednesday May 23, 2007

Church of England North Coast Children's Home

In a promise to myself and to honour my statements written in the press to find and help others who were abused in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, I received a devastating letter relating to incidents that occurred during the years of 1978 and 1983.

In that letter written to me, the person described such appalling happenings of abuse they reduced me to tears. They made my complaints of abuse appear 'trivial', although they were not.

In the signed letter, this person witnessed the gang rape of a young girl in a room inside the Children's Home.

The witness was threatened with a bashing if anything was said to the Matron, staff or clergy. With fear firmly installed, not a word was mentioned until a few days ago - to me. The witness said the fact that no one was told of the rape, is something that has been regretted.

In the Home, from time to time the witness was sexually abused with a broom in the shower room.

The witness was also abused in other ways by the staff and clergy, which was said, had nothing to do with the rape that was witnessed.

The list of abuse on this person is outwardly endless. It is one of the saddest and heart-breaking letters I have read.

The witness vividly remembers the names of the abusers and the actions.

I am so pleased that the person had the courage to come forward in answer to my promise published in the press.

In desperation, pleading to be taken out of the Home, nearly every day that person would sit on the fence at the front of the Home, near the dominant Church of England North Coast Children's Home sign, and wait for some kind family to do just that - to be taken away from the hatred and cruelty. But that never happened.

Also, three other people, who lived in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, have come forward in the last two weeks. In the form of signed letters to me, they told tragic stories of abuse. All have advised me that they are writing their claims of abuse, to be presented to the Anglican Church when they are able, and if they are able.

I do not know any of the above people who were in the Home, nor do they know me. They wrote to me because they read the words in the press saying I am offering help - something they now realise they need. They have phoned me to talk of their problems. They said they have 'faith' in me because of what I had done.

PSSA

I believe there will be more abused victim's getting in touch with me for advice. I believe that because of the latest group of public notices I have sent to national and country newspapers asking for people who were living in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, to come forward.

* Dr. Aspinall, before all this can be done there is a serious problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

It has been said before; victims of abuse have to send their complaints of abuse to the Church of England Diocese of Grafton – right into the hands of Reverend Pat Comben and his work mate Bishop Keith Slater.

Considering what the 41 victims of abuse endured, with the nastiness, grubbiness and deceitfulness of Reverend Pat Comben, it would be a foolish move to be involved with the Diocese of Grafton again, as he would not treat the victim's complaints with the compassion and respect they deserve.

As I mentioned to you in previous correspondence, Mr. Comben was obstinate and treated victims with so much contempt it was degrading. (That is not just my opinion; it is also the opinion of other victim's).

The Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton, especially Mr. Comben should not be involved in anyway whatsoever with recent victim's claims of abuse, while they lived in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home.

Comben's past actions were so inequitable they should have been investigated by an independent adjudicator.

It is bloody shame that something wasn't done about Comben's actions during the compensation claim of the 41 victims', but it's never too late. Dr. Aspinall can the Anglican Church look into his horrid display of protocol.

I believe there will be more abused victim's getting in touch with me for me for advice. I believe that because of the latest batch of public notices I have sent to national and country newspapers asking people who lived in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, to come forward.

To reiterate; any abused victim who was abused in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, would be treated with contempt and dishonour if their abuse claims were handled by Reverend Pat Comben at the Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton. I strongly believe that Bishop Slater should not be involved either.

Please do not let this happen. We are talking about people's life's here – it is in your hands.

Archbishop, considering your primary position in the Anglican Church of Australia, I would be grateful for you're advice with this most serious problem. Please inform me of your decision as soon as possible.

Kind regards,



Richard 'Tommy' Champion

cc: CA
 c.c: Archbishop Peter Jensen
 c.c: Bravehearts
 c.c: Simon Harrison