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Church of England Diocese of Brisbane
The Most Reverend Dr. Aspinall
PO Box 421
Brisbane
QLD 4001

6/6/07

Richard 'Tommy' campion
REDACTED

Dear Dr. Aspinall

Tuesday June 5, 2007

Church of England North Coast Children's Home

Thank you, I received your letter dated May 30, 2007.

It would be easier to answer your letter by commenting on each paragraph.

Paragraph One: Yes, I have had people who have written or phoned me with complaints of abuse that occurred during their time in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home.

I believe the reason they have come forward is that they now understand something has been done about the abuse they endured. They are fed-up suffering in silence. I find that remarkably brave.

There was sadistic abuse caused by the Anglican clergy and staff employed at the Children's Home, and it's about time the Anglican Church faced the music for their lack of care in that Home.

The people who have wrote or phoned about their abuse have mentioned this is the first time they have spoken to anyone about their abuse. As I wrote before, the only reason they spoke to me was that they believe in me and what I am endeavouring to achieve.

Paragraph Two: The experience these people have been through is depressing and disturbing. I will do all I can to put them in the right frame of mind and help them to receive the appropriate care that they deserve. I will give them phone numbers of respected counselling services in, or close to the regions they live in.

I am not experienced with those sorts of problems but I have a heart and a decent admiration for people, and I know what direction to take.

Most of all I will give them respect and love, something that is sadly lacking from the Anglican Church.

Paragraph Three: I will endeavour to advise the abused victims to seek justice by contacting the police, if and when they are able to do so. Of course, that is up to them. I can not nor will I coax anyone to do any thing they do not want to do. The abuse in the Children's Home was absolute hell and they will do it when they are ready – just as I did.

The lives of the people who have contacted me are in an absolute mess and they need time to adjust.

You wrote in your letter that you have asked your Director of Professional Standards, who would be Rod McLary, to advise the police of the atrocious crimes that were committed on the children in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home. For the criminal abuse to have happened in an Anglican place is a frightening and daunting situation.

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However on that note, if the police come knocking on my front door I will not be able to tell them of the abuse unless the victims advise me that it is okay to do so. I will leave that up to them – and I hope they have the strength to do so.

Paragraph Four: I made a promise to myself and a pledge in a newspaper article that I would search for more people who were abused in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home and if I have to bear some of the pain of their abuse, so be it. Although the first letter I received had me in tears, I think I will be able to cope. I am here to help and by all means we should all put others before ourselves – the Anglican Church should know that.

Paragraph Five: I was wondering what you have encouraged Bishop Slater to do. I was wondering what he can do at this stage. Judging by what was done to the 41 victims in the compensation claim, it will be a shambles.

Dr. Aspinall, I thank you for your concern. If the above people come forward I really hope the Diocese of Grafton looks after them in every possible way and does not treat them the way the 41 victims of abuse were treated in a recent compensation claim – and that was bloody dreadful and a travesty of justice.

P.S. Again I take the opportunity and ask the Anglican Church of Australia to help me in my search for people who were abused in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home, an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not. I would appreciate your help. Let's do it!

Kind regards,



Richard 'Tommy' Champion

c.c.
c.c. Bravehearts
c.c. Archbishop Peter Jensen
c.c. Bishop Slater