

RC57

The Anglican Diocese of Grafton
The Right Reverend Keith Slater
PO Box 4
Grafton NSW

Richard 'Tommy' Campion
REDACTED

Dear Bishop

December 19, 2007

Church of England North Coast Children's Home

I reply to your letter dated Thursday November 22, 2007.

* I will not sign that dreadful and unfair Deed of Release. It is unforgivable that the Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton would expect me too. If you read it Bishop, you too would see how bloody unreasonable it is?

For example; in the Deed of Release it reads, "nothing in Clause 4 is intended to prevent the Claimant from telling his or her story." However, further on in Clause 8, it reads, "The Claimant agree not to unfairly injure or disparage the reputation of the Releases or any of its officers, employees or agents or the Anglican Church of Australia."

That effectively means; if I accept any damages I can talk about the abuses, but I can't talk about the responsibility of the Anglican Church of Australia or the horrific way they have dealt with me. That is bloody ludicrous. Once again the Anglican Church is using their superiority to put a ring through my nose and drag me up the garden path.

Also in Clause 4 it reads that I cannot "divulge to any person or body the terms of the amount of the settlement of the Claims provided for in this Deed." Well, I will not tell you a lie. If someone asked me the settlement I received from the church I would tell them. I wouldn't be able to help myself. Anyway, it has been written in two newspapers at least two times stating how much the other 39 victims from the North Coast Children's Home received from the church. There is nothing to hide now. Has the Anglican Church got something to hide? Are they ashamed that they compensated an abused person from an Anglican home? Don't you want people comparing what they received?

** I have made it clear in the first paragraph that I refuse to sign the Deed of Release. That obviously means I cannot accept the miserable \$22,000 cop-out offered. To a much larger extent; if the Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton offered me \$500,000 I still can not accept the damages because I would not sign the Deed of Release – that is until the Anglican Church accepts and admits liability for the abuse of children who lived in the North Coast Children's Home.

The Anglican Church refuses to acknowledge its responsibility in ensuring the safety and protection of me – as a child in their care.

The Anglican Church has failed in their primary duty to protect me and ensure that I was raised in a safe and caring environment. This failure was a fundamental factor in what happened in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home.

The Anglican Church's refusal to accept the role they played is offensive and disrespectful to those who were so horrifically harmed, in the true words of Reverend Pat Comben, "in an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not."

5235

*** Also in the Deed of release it reads, "The Claimant acknowledges that they have been offered an apology from the Anglican Diocese of Grafton ..." That is true. I was offered an apology back in 2005/2006 - and I am still waiting. Please send me a fair-dinkum apology.

**** Regarding payment for counselling: In your letters, now and again, you have mentioned the amount of money the Diocese of Grafton has spent to assist me with counselling.

In the letter dated November 22, 2007 you wrote, "Recognising the Diocese has already contributed \$8,500 towards counselling previously undertaken." That is true; the Anglican Church Diocese of Grafton has paid for my counselling over a period of time and my family and I appreciate it, nonetheless it doesn't make you benevolent or better than anyone else.

Don't forget I lived in that Anglican home hell-hole for 14 years, 12 of which were abusive years. Need I remind you of the sexual abuse? Need I remind you of the psychological abuse I suffered - abuse so horrid and cruel I am lucky to have survived? Need I remind you of my life after? Please stop whining about how much the church have payed out and get on with the job. \$8,500 is a mere drop in the ocean compared to the abuse I suffered at the hands of St Andrew's Anglican Church clergy and the staff who were employed by the Anglican Church.

Providing support for counselling is not one of the Diocese of Grafton's strong points. In February 2006, during a crucial part of my counselling, the Anglican Church and Pat Comben informed me that they would not continue supporting my counselling. They said it wasn't an open-ended commitment. I was than told that the church was going to stop paying for the counselling entirely. However, because of a story published in a newspaper, unwanted publicity and a phone call from a journalist of The Northern Star newspaper, the Reverend Pat Comben, Diocese of Grafton registrar, agreed to continue support. However, the support for counselling was short lived and I was pushed back to where I started - than I had to start pleading for my rights again.

I wait for your reply. In the name of common sense and the rights of abused victims I want the Anglican Church to accept and admit liability for the abuse of the children who lived in the North Coast Children's Home. The Anglican Church is wrong in their decisions and the victims are right. Bishop, you know my words are true just as well as I do.

Regards,



Richard 'Tommy' Campion

c.c: CA

c.c: The Most Reverend Dr. Phillip Aspinall - Primate of Australia

c.c: CLAN