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Mr Richard Champion

REDACTED

Dear Mr Champion

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2008 in which you raise a number of matters regarding CD

First, may I say that I am most concerned that CD is distressed and feels that the Church has failed to respond appropriately to him when he wrote expressing the hurt and suffering he had experienced.

I can appreciate that he – and you – feels that the Church has not responded as it should and that it has failed to help him. However, the response must come from the Diocese of Grafton. I did telephone and speak with Bishop Slater after I received your letter of 23 January 2008. Bishop Slater informed me that he does require a letter to come directly from CD before he can take any action under Grafton's Protocol. I must accept that advice. I am not able to intervene in a matter which is properly the responsibility of that Diocese.

As the Primate has said in his previous letters to you, he has done and continues to do all he can to encourage the Diocese of Grafton to resolve this matter properly and with all due care and concern for you and the other persons. The matter though is properly a matter for Bishop Slater.

You mention in your letter that I informed Taskforce Argos in the Queensland Police Service of the allegations of sexual abuse. I am aware that the Taskforce has passed that information to the police in New South Wales and I have since had a number of conversations with a police officer in NSW. I understand that investigations are continuing.

Please be assured that I will continue do what I can to assist you and other victims; but I am not able to directly intervene in other dioceses.

Yours faithfully



Rod McLary  
Director of Professional Standards

14 February 2008