

RC 77

FILE COPY

Anglican Church Grafton Diocese
The Right Reverend Keith Slater
PO Box 4
Grafton
NSW 2460



Richard "Tommy" Campion

REDACTED

June 25, 2008

Dear Bishop Slater

Church of England North Coast Children's Home (CENCCH) (Photo details on second page)

In a letter to me dated May 11, 2007, Dr. Philip A. Selden, Sydney Diocese Registrar and Archbishop Jensen's Executive Officer, wrote: *"I would like to make it perfectly clear to you that I fully believe your story and am horrified at what you reveal. I think that I can be the best judge of what I mean when I say that I am distressed. I say it again. I am distressed at hearing what has happened to you, and for me that is a strong emotion"*.

Mr. Pat Comben, Diocesan Registrar of the Grafton Anglican Church, in a letter to me dated September 2, 2005 wrote, ... *"we will do all that we can to assist you to move beyond the pain that was caused in an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not"*.

You and the Anglican Church offered me compensation (which I refused). I was offered an apology, albeit, an insipid and untrue one. The Primate of Australia, Dr. Phillip Aspinall, even got in on the act with his pretence of officering me support - and so on and so forth.

So it has been proven I was abused in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home in Lismore, NSW.

The Anglican Church decided I was entitled to be compensated for the abuse - but only if I signed a Deed of Release.

In the Deed of Release: Reference 8 - 8.1 it reads: *The Releasees agree not to unfairly injure or disparage the reputation of the Claimant.*

I can understand why you and the Anglican Church and the Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton would not want to disparage the reputation of any abused victim. What I see is the Anglican Church wants the abused victims to go away and stay away. They do not want to rock the Ark. The Anglican Church would rather all victims be forgotten forever just like the poor souls in the Church of England North Coast Children's Home.

In the Deed of Release: Reference 8 - 8.2 it reads: *The Claimant agree not to unfairly injure or disparage the reputation of the Releasees or any of its officers, employees or agents or the Anglican Church of Australia.*

I am damned if I can understand; even though I am the person who was cowardly and maliciously abused by members of the Anglican clergy and those employed and or engaged by the Anglican Church you want me to sign a Deed of Release that prevents me from saying or doing certain things that might hurt the feelings of the Anglican Church.

55 29

That's correct Bishop Slater; I might hurt the feelings of the Anglican Church. That's what it all boils down too:

That is a conspiracy of silence.

That wreaks of hypocrisy - two-facedness - double standards - pretence - duplicity - disingenuousness - artificially - dishonesty - deceit - insincerity - or whatever you want to call it. I am stunned with the poor attitude of the Church.

The treatment you give to abused victims is cruel, uncaring and unchristian. You think you are playing Mr. Nice Guy but you are doing more damage. Abused victims should to be allowed to express themselves forever.

As you very well know I have never been satisfied with the way the dreadfully unfair Deed of Release was written. Some time ago I mentioned I would like to rewrite the Deed of Release so it favours abused victims. You said to go ahead and write it. Now, I have decided I do not have the education that allows me to do that - and I cannot afford a lawyer to do it for me.

Consequently, I ask you, the Anglican Church and the Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton to rewrite the Deed of Release and think more of the abused victims and less of yourselves. Do that in the name of God and you just might turn out to be the nice guys.

Or would the Anglican Church be prepared to pay a lawyer of my choice to help me with the Deed of Release?

Footnote: I spoke with a dear woman who was abused. She told me she had signed a Deed of Release and received compensation. She asked me what sort punishment she could expect if she was to speak publicly of the Anglican Church. I told her I would ask you. Can you explain what sort of "trouble" the woman would be in?

I would appreciate a reply.

Regards,



Richard "Tommy" Campion

Photo Facts: The Church of England North Coast Children's Home sign was erected near the entry of the Home. It was there when I arrived at the Home in 1949. It was there when I left in 1962/63. It was there when I left Lismore in 1970. It was still there when the photo above was taken in 1977. The sign was still there in the early 80's - yet it was removed when the home ceased to function as a "shelter" for children. The Anglican Church denies they run the Home or had the duty of care for the 100's of children and that is a cold hard lie. That lie is a sin against God and those who were tragically abused in it. When I lived there it was a hell-home full of hatred and bloody brutal bashings. It was an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not.