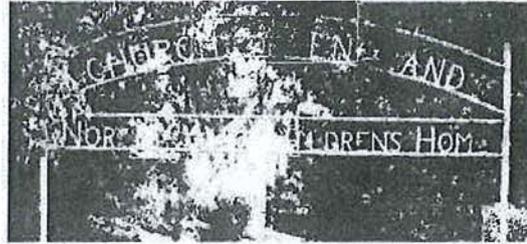


RC82

Anglican Church Grafton Diocese
The Right Rev'd Keith Slater
PO Box 4
Grafton
NSW 2460



Richard "Tommy" Campion

REDACTED

October 11, 2008

Dear Bishop Slater

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

While I wait for the truthful apology you offered in your letter of September 29, 2008, I remind you of my concerns for Grafton Diocesan Registrar, Pat Comben, who personally and publicly said that the Anglican Church was not the overarching authority for the Children's Home nor did they have the duty of care for the children who lived in that home nor was the church liable for compensation.

In view of those public denials your church still offered \$825,000 to 41 victims of abuse.

Then the bomb dropped!

Published in *The Australian* on April 12, 2007, Pat Comben, again referring to the offer made, said, "We have made that offer on the basis that the church is a church of compassion and wants to make a passable approach to people who had apparently been damaged in a place that had some sort of connections with some church people".

Pat Comben's absurd remarks "apparently been damaged" and "had some sort of connections with some church people", words obviously sanctioned by yourself and the Diocese of Grafton, was an act of cruelty. Comben's actions were those of a weak man who was uncaring for the children of the home and appeared more concerned for the church.

Pat Comben pulled the strings however if he had bothered to explore this shocking reality, just as I have, he would have discovered the truth – but no – he bloody didn't. If he had made an effort to gather documents from Freedom of Information and sort details concerning the Child Welfare Act and ask just a few questions of the folk in Lismore town, just as I have, he would have found the Anglican Church were the overarching authority for the Church of England North Coast Children's Home and had the responsibility for the children who lived in that home.

In a letter of January 9, 2007, I was informed that Pat Comben; while comments were being made of "discipline in those days" a suggestion that implied that any abuses that occurred had to be placed in the context of the fact that at least the children were given a home.

Good grief!

In a letter to me Pat Comben compassionately explained that the church would "assist me to move beyond the pain that was caused in an Anglican place that should have been safe, but which was clearly not".

Pat Comben's words were untrue.

5809

On April 13, 2007, Pat Comben said: "The church had no legal duty of care to any of the former residents of the home and the payout was simply an act of compassion".

Pat Comben went on to say: "... the home was a community-run facility ..."

He said: "While there were Anglican clergymen working there, the church never appointed staff, managed the home nor exercised any control over its operations".

And more: "If it had been a church home, it would have been officially incorporated like similar facilities. The church was connected to the home but not responsible for it".

All those words from Pat Comben were untrue.

Again I remind you of the Anglican booklet, **'Faithfulness in Service', A National Code for Personal Behaviour and the Practice of Pastoral Ministry by Clergy**, point 6.9 under the section noted as **'Standards for Clergy'** written in the Anglican Church's own words, it reads: **"You are not knowingly to make statements that are false, misleading or deceptive"**.

The offensive way Pat Comben has conducted himself in the past; with his grubby actions, the lies, the deceit was devastating to CA and I. His behaviour is something we will not forget.

From where I stand Pat Comben owes CA and I a truthful apology just as the Anglican Church does.

Regards,



Richard "Tommy" Campion

Photo Facts: The Church of England North Coast Children's Home sign was erected near the entry. It was there when I arrived at the Home in 1949 and 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 and 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 were the overarching authority or had the duty of care for the children in the home 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