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**BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON**

16 August 2010

Mr Richard Campion

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Dear Richard

**Anglican Church Truthful Letter of Regret and Apology to
Richard "Tommy" Campion**

I write this Letter of Regret to provide to you a personal apology to the greatest extent that I can in the hope that it will allow you to come to healing and closure.

To enable me to fully comprehend your hurt and wishes I have recently reviewed all the material that you have provided to me from the former Child Welfare Department and other places. The documents you have supplied show the association and involvement of the Anglican Church with the Home.

Those documents, such as the Licence Applications and reports, showing the involvement of the Church of England and its clergy in the North Coast Children's Home have allowed me to fully understand your position that the Anglican Church had substantial responsibilities to the residents under the relevant legislation at that time.

Consequently I accept that there was a duty to care for the residents of the Home in the situations in which the Church or its clergy (including clergy from St Andrew's Anglican Church) or other staff were involved in the care of the residents of the Home.

I accept that children at the Home were abused by clergy engaged and licensed by the Church.

It is clearly evident that at times certain members of the Committee for the Home, some members of which were appointed by the Anglican Church through and by the Rector of Lismore, and certain members of staff did not comply with the expectations of the *Child Welfare Act 1939*.

This breach of care and due diligence by those individuals clearly contributed to the abuse and totally unacceptable and at times inhumane treatment of some residents. For those acts of people connected with the Church, which were less than right or appropriate and which had tragic outcomes, I sincerely apologise both personally and in the name of the Church.

The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishopsholme
35 Victoria Street
PO Box 4 (50 Victoria Street)
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Telephone: (Office) (02)66424122
(Home) (02)66422070
Facsimile: (02)66431814
Email: bishopgrafton@nor.com.au

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Without hesitation I acknowledge the ongoing mental repercussions which flow from abuse and the life time effect that it can have. That you are in such a situation is profoundly regretted.

Neither I nor any member of this Diocese has ever expressed disbelief at your story. That we have listened to, and worked with, legal advice has led to a situation in which you have felt devalued, unbelieved and this has led to personal pain for you. I apologise unreservedly for the pain that you have felt as a result of the Church's actions in this respect.

In writing this apology I have accepted your suggestion to move beyond the constraints of lawyers, legalisms and formal relations and to move to assist you to find a place of peace, comfort and an ability to travel positively forward.

An apology from the Diocesan Registrar, Reverend The Honourable Pat Comben AM is attached.

Blessings



The Right Reverend Keith Skiter
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton

