



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

Tuesday, 14 August 2007

CA

REDACTED

Dear CA,

Thank you for your recent letter, dated 27 July 2007, in which you sought to reply to my question: "What would help you to move on from these things of the past?" I indicated that your response may help me in responding following our conversation in Port Macquarie. Thank you. It has actually crystallised for me some of the issues at stake. *NO ANSWERS*

I noted the comments from our conversation at REDACTED and now I will try to be clear in my response.

In doing this you will appreciate that I have to hold in balance: care for you, for those with whom the Diocese has already come to agreement, as well as the church for which I am responsible.

What I have to say does not in anyway negate your experience at the North Coast Children's Home but tries to respond in the context of all that has happened in recent times.

Let me try to summarise the recent process:

1. You made a claim against the Anglican Diocese of Grafton
2. Before the Diocese had an opportunity to respond your brother, Richard, encouraged you and a significant number of other people to place the claim in the hands of a lawyer
3. After a lengthy process, notwithstanding strong legal advice to the effect that these claims would not be legally sustainable, the Diocese has concluded this claim with the majority of those who came forward at that time
4. Following this conclusion, I agreed to meet with you and your brother, Richard, out of care and concern for you both. I stated quite clearly before that conversation that it was not connected to a process of mediation. *? No*

As I have reflected upon this process there seems to be one principle which is highlighted:



- ❖ the decisions we make have an impact upon the outcomes; i.e. when we make certain decisions these affect how a matter is concluded.

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Bearing this principle in mind, I make the following comment:

It seems to me that what you are now asking in relation to a Care Package would actually be a betrayal of all of those with whom you made a claim through your lawyer.

If the Diocese now proceeded to re-negotiate with you at a significantly higher level of recompense then it would actually impinge upon your integrity, and be viewed by others as a betrayal.

On the basis of this, I have come to a mind that the levels of any Care Package which the Diocese now offers in relation to the North Coast Children's Home have been established by the outcome of the legal agreement with those who have already concluded their claim.

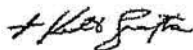
In the light of this reflection the Diocese is prepared to offer you the following Care Package:

to pay you a Care Package at the upper level of that agreement; i.e. \$22,000, less payments of any amounts due to Medicare Australia, recognising that you will get the full advantage of this amount rather than a significant portion being absorbed by legal fees

Acceptance of this package would be finalised by your signing a Deed of Release in this matter.

CA, I have given much thought to this, recognising the above principle and possible outcome, and yet out of care for you and your own personal integrity I am proposing this package to bring some closure to this matter for you.

In good faith and blessings,



The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton



The Anglican Church of Australia