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BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

Thursday, 18 October 2007

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Thank you for your recent letter, dated 8 October 2007. I am sorry that you do not feel able to accept the Care Package that was offered as per my letter 14 August 2007.

Despite advice given to me following your decision not to accept the original offer, out of compassion I wanted to reach out to you, to show that I did hear you, and give you the opportunity to receive compensation. Thus the offer of the Care Package was made and was not meant in any way to minimise your experience of abuse.

You made reference to our original meeting stating that I did not say at any time that that meeting was "not connected to mediation". In my original letter to Richard I wrote: "In this initial meeting I see it as an opportunity to raise (as you say): "some important matters to talk about that could be helpful to all concerned", as well as some of your suggestions that you have made in previous correspondence.'

I had prior to that meeting spoken with Jenni Woodhouse and asked that she state very clearly that I did not see the meeting as a mediation, but as a time to hear your story. As you had spent time with Jenni prior to my arrival I assumed that this was known. I entered into the meeting on that understanding. I am sorry if that was not clear.

In relation to the suggestions in your previous letter I can assure you that what you have said individually has reinforced and contributed to the shaping of Diocesan response and preventative measures. They have contributed to the following:

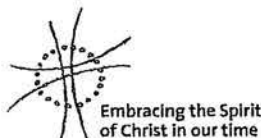
- The referral of appropriate matters to the police
- An educational programme on child protection and safety issues across the Diocese
- The careful screening of clergy
- Regular professional development for clergy
- The appointment of a Professional Standards Committee
- A commitment to seeing better processes are put in place

With best wishes,

K Slater

The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton

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