



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

Monday, 24 December 2007

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Dear CA

It seems that no matter what my good intentions or eloquent words they might never be able to meet what you are seeking. Certainly one of my roles as the Bishop is to act in the best interests of the Church, but also as well to act in the best interests of individuals and their circumstances. My hope, in becoming personally involved, was to enable closure for you.

In reading your recent letter the only thing that seems possible is to offer the apology that was offered to those who signed the Deed of Release. It was, and is, heart-felt.

I understand that while you were at the North Coast Children's Home as a child, you experienced abuse. I am sorry to hear that this was your experience in this community based facility which was established for the care and support of children in various situations and need.

As the Home was established as a place of compassion, the Anglican Church sought to offer support and chaplaincy, as we continue to do so in various chaplaincies throughout the diocese. Whilst I am advised by the lawyers that the Home was not our responsibility, we have sought as a Church exercising compassion, to respond to the pain of those who have come forward with their story.

I personally am saddened when any abuse of children takes place. My heart goes out in sorrow and regret to those who are affected in such a manner, and particularly in this case to those who lived in the North Coast Children's Home - and most particularly yourself.

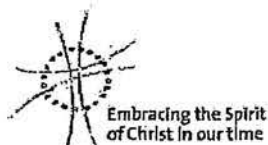
Please accept this as an apology for what was your experience - which fell short of the full expression of love and care.

My personal prayer is for healing and wholeness for yourself and for all who were negatively affected by their time in North Coast Children's Home.

Peace and blessings,

The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton

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