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BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

21 February 2008

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Dear CD

Thank you for your recent letters and the removal of the confusion concerning what you wish to happen. I am aware that you feel only anger towards the Church, however, I wish you to know that you are in my prayers and I am deeply sorry for all the hurt you have been through.

We have just appointed a new Professional Standards Director based in Newcastle. Generally I would immediately refer your letter to her for investigation and discussions with you concerning counselling or other support. However, I note that you state that you do not wish to have counselling, but do wish to be compensated.

In respect to compensation, are you aware that a large city law firm acting on behalf of 30 former residents of the home were unable to bring an action? This was because of the major legal issues which stood in the way of any real prospect of a successful action (these substantial hurdles included the Statute of Limitations, questions as to who actually owned the Home, what was the responsible organisation, what legal body in the Church could be sued for this, and a Court of Appeal matter, very similar to this, in which the former residents lost). Because of these difficulties the Church agreed to provide a pastoral care and assistance payment.

Individual payments were at one of three levels:-

\$22,658
\$20,658
\$16,658

The highest level involved serious and on-going sexual, psychological and physical abuse. The second level involved only limited types of abuse and limited duration, the third level was abuse in the nature of one off or very limited actions against the resident.

Should you wish to consider one of these amounts, I am happy to consider any proposal and will seek to deal with it expeditiously.

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If a settlement were to be reached I would require you to sign a Deed of Release and to take independent legal advice (which we would pay for) on the appropriateness of the settlement.

I am aware of the long period of hurt that you have undergone and felt, consequently should it be of assistance I commit the Diocese of Grafton to a rapid response.

I look forward to your response.

Yours in Christ



The Right Reverend Keith Slater
Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton

