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Anglican Diocese of Grafton

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19th July 2010

Bishop Keith Slater,
Anglican Diocese of Grafton,
The Bishops Registry,
P.O Box 4
Grafton,
NSW, 2460

Dear Bishop Keith,

Mr Tommy Campion has been corresponding with me in recent times with regard to his case and requested that I review the matter. I am aware you are familiar with the history of the case.

Mr Campion is a complex character, clearly still suffering significant psychological distress as a result of the abuse he endured as a child in the North Coast Boys Home. Mr Campion also exhibits profound distress around the issue of how the matter was dealt with by the Diocese of Grafton throughout the settlement process. This is most unfortunate as it is usually through this process that an opportunity for some level of closure and moving forward results for many victims.

I would like to undertake to continue to engage with Mr Campion in an effort to show him continued compassion from the Church with the aim of assisting him in moving forward positively.

In brief Mr Campion's issue is that he claims the Church has not admitted it had a 'duty of care' at the home. This appears to have been a point of some debate and legal argument throughout the settlement process.

I submit that Mr Campion's stance on this issue appears well supported by his research and knowledge of the home. Even if the home was run by a community group as claimed by the diocese, quite clearly after all the facts are considered the Church did have an implied duty of care simply due to their level of involvement, contribution and oversight as part of what would be considered standard social expectations and values. As such I would question the validity of maintaining the standpoint of the diocese when it appears to be resulting in such a high level of distress and dysfunction to an individual who has already suffered so much.

I would like to propose to you that I undertake a process of negotiation and mediation between Mr Campion and the Diocese of Grafton in an effort to resolve this matter in order to improve the health and wellbeing of Mr Campion as part of an ongoing pastoral and compassionate response to him.

Could you please let me know your position on this matter and thoughts on future directions.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Elliott

Director of Professional Standards
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, Grafton, Armidale