

"SJH 4"

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1 March 2006

Messrs. Nicol Robinson Halletts,
Lawyers,
Box 380 GPO
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sirs,

**RE: THE CORPORATE TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAFTON - NORTH COAST
CHILDRENS HOME**

We refer to your letter dated 9 February 2006 We are instructed to reply to your letter as follows:-

1. Alleged abusers

It is noted that in your letter dated 5 January 2006, you make reference to "some of the alleged perpetrators." The Diocese is not aware of any previous allegations involving the persons named in such letter. As regards the contact details of the persons named, this information is not presently available. Enquiries are continuing.

2. Office bearers

The information requested is not readily available. We are instructed to advise that while the Diocese will be keen to provide information and seek answers to specific allegations about identified individuals, it is not in a position to undertake open ended investigations without having details of the identity of the persons making the allegations or the timeframe and extent to which the enquiry should be made. Our client is aware of the matter of Mr. Richard Campion who is apparently being represented by your firm. We enclose for your information, copy of a letter dated 10 February 2006 forwarded by our client to Mr. Richard Campion. Our client remains willing and anxious to immediately progress Mr. Campion's matter through Diocesan processes to a conclusion, but is awaiting further communication regarding the matter.

3. Appropriate entity

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Messrs. Nicol Robinson Halletts,

1 March 2006

All that we were intending to convey by the reference to "not being a separate legal entity" is the fact that the "Diocese of Grafton" is *not* a juridical person and thus is unable to sue or be sued. The word "separate" can accordingly be disregarded to avoid possible confusion.

4. "Time elapsed"

We do not understand the reference to "[time lapsed]" as our copy of the letter uses the words "time which has elapsed". The reference to "basis on which liability would be alleged" relates to the question of any limitation issues which may be applicable

5. Inquiries

We are instructed that enquiries have been made by the Diocese following the conviction of Allan Kitchingman. The Diocese is aware that he was convicted on a charge of sexual assault at Newcastle District Court in August 2002. The Diocese is also aware of the identity of the victim of the alleged assault who has been in receipt of Pastoral care and assistance from the Diocese.

6. Procedural issues

Our client has instructed us that it does not see the value of any general conference until the matters alleged are better particularized. Specifically, our client is concerned that the Diocese and officer bearers past and present should not be disadvantaged. As advised above, the Diocese remains keen to attend to the matters referred to but does not have unlimited resources to embark upon investigating matters which have not been particularized in any way.

Yours faithfully,
FOOTT, LAW & CO.

Per: 
Peter Roland