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Mr Simon Harrison
Nicol Robinson Halletts
GPO Box 380
Brisbane 4001

Dear Mr Harrison

I refer to your letter of 15 February 2007 which was faxed to me today.

The Archbishop is not in the office today. However, I have spoken with him and he has requested that I respond to your letter on his behalf.

The Archbishop regrets that you have understood that the message that I left was a legalistic response. That is not his wish and he is committed to the pastoral principles which he has enunciated on a number of occasions.

You are aware that the Archbishop has written to Bishop Keith Slater outlining to him those principles which have been shown to be helpful in achieving beneficial outcomes for the victims and the Church. The Archbishop will continue to encourage dioceses to act in ways which are consistent with the principles which he has publicly espoused and continues to stand by.

However, the Diocese of Brisbane is not in a position to meet the abuse claims which are the proper responsibility of another diocese.

If the Archbishop can be of assistance in ways which are within his authority as Primate, he will always do so.

Yours faithfully



Rod McLary
Director of Professional Standards

23 February 2007