

"SJH59"

Mr Simon Harrison
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Dear Mr Harrison

The Archbishop of Brisbane - the Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall - was in his office earlier this week after a fortnight of interstate and overseas commitments. Significant preparation was required during February for those commitments and the Archbishop has now left for further interstate business.

Understandably, significant matters relating to the Diocese of Brisbane have mounted during the Archbishop's absence and have required his urgent attention. Consequently, he has asked me to write to you in relation to the North Coast Children's Home.

I can advise you that immediate action was taken regarding your letter of last week. A full response will be provided once the Archbishop has resolved specific and possibly serious queries. To ensure no further time is lost, the Archbishop has assigned Brisbane staff to speed-up the process.

The Archbishop will be in contact as soon as he can do so from a proper factual basis.

In the interim, he has also asked me to provide a 'plain language' explanation of the structure of the Anglican Church. It is easy to imagine that hopes can be raised and misconceptions created if the bounds of what he can do aren't accurately described.

It might be helpful for you to know that the main criticism levelled against the Archbishop in regard to the complex and emotionally-charged complaints of historic abuse victims is that he's overly vigorous, not lax, in his responses.

I will contact you further to advise you of any developments which may arise over the next few days.

Yours faithfully



Rod McLary
Director of Professional Standards

8 March 2007