

STATEMENT OF BISHOP GEORGE BROWNING

Overview of personal history and involvement with the Church of England Boys Society

1. I was ordained a Deacon in 1966 and Priest 1967 in the Diocese of Armidale. I served curacies in the parishes of Inverell and Armidale where there were strong CEBS groups. I was one of the leaders in the Armidale group but not that I can remember in Inverell. In both Parishes my primary responsibility was for the Young Anglican Fellowship (late teenagers and upwards).
2. 1969 -1973 I was the rector of Warialda in the Diocese of Armidale and took responsibility for the CEBS group in the parish.
3. 1976 – 1984 I was the Rector of the parish of Singleton (Diocese of Newcastle). This was a large Parish with multiple staff. The parish had a thriving CEBS group with many leaders. I had overall responsibility for the Parish including the CEBS group.
4. My experience of CEBS in the 1960's, 70's and early 80's was of a vibrant movement for boys that gave them a range of experiences contributing to their developing into rounded citizens. I can recall no circumstance from the ministries cited above in which boys were open to abuse from any of their leaders, nor have I been the recipient, in subsequent years, of knowledge that might lead me to believe that such a thing occurred.

Knowledge of the circumstances in which Louis Daniels moved to the ACT in or around 1994

5. Mr Daniels did not move to the ACT to be associated with the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He came to live with or near his mother and brother. To the best of my knowledge Mr Daniels did not make contact with me about his move or make any request associated with it. From my memory (and absence of any paper trail) I do not believe that he apprised me of his move to Canberra

Knowledge of circumstances in which Mr Daniels gained employment within the ACT in or around 1994

6. To the best of my memory I had no knowledge of Mr Daniels employment. There is no reason why he would have needed my permission to seek secular employment. No reference from the Diocese was sought and none given.

Knowledge of any allegations of child sexual abuse made against Mr Daniels including when heard and response made.

7. I am unaware of any accusations of child sexual abuse made against Mr Daniels in the ACT. I see from the Diocesan documentation I have received, that I was informed of

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Witness:

the allegations against Mr Daniels by the Bishop of Tasmania in May 1997 (see ANG.0140.001.0006)

Understanding of when and in what circumstances the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn or any of its clergy or office bearers became aware of the accusations against Mr Daniels and the response made.

8. Mr Daniels did not seek nor was he offered any ministry or role within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. The impact of his presence requiring response was restricted to the parish of [REDACTED], ACT, where he wished to exercise his right to worship. . When I learned of Mr Daniels presence in 1997 I talked with the then rector about an appropriate risk management strategy which would permit him the right to worship, while protecting the Parish. It was agreed:
- a. His presence as a paedophile was to be officially made known to the Parish officials (The Parish Wardens).
 - b. He was told to worship at the early morning service on Sunday's when only in rare circumstances children would be present. (Sunday School and youth groups met at other times). He was also told he could not attend parish social events (including parish camps) when children could be reasonably expected to be present.
 - c. He was not to be involved in any liturgical or pastoral ministry.
9. To the best of my knowledge Mr Daniels did his utmost to apply not simply the letter but the spirit of this request and I am unaware of any misgiving being raised by members of the congregation.

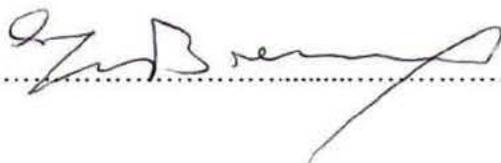
Knowledge of the Circumstances in which Mr Daniels was deposed in 2002

10. I can see from the documentation that the deposition of Mr Daniels, by me, on the 13 December 2002 took place in response to a request from Mr [BYF] (see ANG.0142.001.0179, ANG.0038.001.0184 and ANG.0140.001.0045). Why Mr Daniels had not been deposed by the Diocese of Tasmania I do not know.

Nature and extent of risk management in relation to Mr Daniels implemented by the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn during my episcopate.

11. Mr Daniels lived as a private citizen in the ACT with no direct involvement with the Diocese other than within the Parish of [REDACTED] I am unaware of his presence at any activity of the Diocese outside the Parish. Largely as a result of Mr Daniels presence at [REDACTED] it became part of general risk policy that if someone accused of child sexual abuse wished to worship in a parish, this information had to be made known to the parish's official office holders that they might apply a risk management strategy, as above.

Signature:



Witness:



