

Statement in Response to Request from the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse – Case Study 36: Church of England Boy's Society (CEBS)

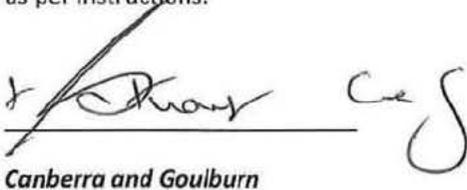
Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

This statement is provided as requested by me, The Right Reverend Stuart Robinson the Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn.

It answers the questions in Schedule 1 of the letter dated 18/12/15 regarding Case Study 36: CEBS.

The questions have been answered honestly and with the assistance of my office holders and employees.

The documents named and numbered which are referred to in this draft in the grey boxes are the evidence of the answers. This evidence has been submitted and assigned Document ID numbers by the Royal Commission Team. These numbers have then been entered into the text of this statement as per instructions.



Stuart Robinson

Canberra and Goulburn

11 January 2016



+S Initial



Witness Initial

1. Your knowledge of the circumstances in which Louis Daniels moved to the Australian Capital Territory in or around 1994.

The only knowledge I have in regard to the circumstances in which Louis Daniels moved to the ACT in or around 1994 derives from the letter dated 22/05/1997 from Bishop Newell (Tasmania) to Bishop Browning (Canberra & Goulburn). This letter was drawn to my attention following a review of archived files prompted by this request for a statement regarding Case Study 36 (18/11/15).

Letter from Bishop Newell to Bishop Browning [ANG.0140.001.0006]

2. Your knowledge of the circumstances in which Louis Daniels obtained employment within the Australian Capital Territory in or around 1994 or 1995, including but not limited to details of any references provided on behalf of Mr Daniels by any clergy within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

I have no knowledge of the circumstances in which Louis Daniels obtained employment. I do not have any knowledge of references provided by any clergy within this diocese. I submit a letter (found with the letter referred to in question 1 above) written by Bishop Newell to the Education Department in the ACT regarding Louis Daniels. In response to queries regarding the possibility of Louis Daniels having worked at the Canberra Grammar School I have been able to ascertain that he was not employed there.

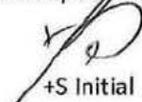
Letter from the Bishop Phillip Newell to CEO, ACT Department of Education and Training [ANG.0140.001.0051]

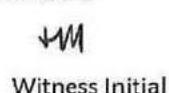
Letter from Trevor Ament to Justin Garrick [ANG.0140.001.0049]

Letter from David Evans to Trevor Ament [ANG.0140.001.0050]

3. Your knowledge of any allegations of child sexual abuse made against Louis Daniels, including when and in what circumstances you became aware of such allegations, and your response to such allegations (if any).

When I worked as National Mission Facilitator for the Anglican Church of Australia (2006-2008) I was privy to 'conversation' from various diocesan leaders regarding Anglican leaders that had been deposed or incarcerated. I was not apprised or aware of particular details of dioceses various people had been involved with at that time. Shortly after becoming Diocesan Bishop in 2009 I became


+S Initial


Witness Initial

aware that Louis Daniels was serving a prison sentence for offences against children. Furthermore my attention was drawn on 21/10/2010 to the need to prepare for Louis Daniels' return to the Diocese by the then Rector of the Parish of REDACTED the Rev REDACTED.

In investigating the circumstances surrounding Louis Daniel's incarceration following the receipt of Rev RED's email I became aware that Louis Daniels had been deposed in our diocese after a complaint was made against him in 2002. I instructed Ms Celia Irving (the then Professional Standards Director) to follow up this communication with a meeting to discuss the matter with Rev RED. As outlined in question 6 below I took steps to institute a Safety Plan to manage the risk of Mr Daniels reoffending as it became clear that he desired to move back to the ACT and return to an Anglican church on his release from prison in 2012.

Email from Stuart Robinson to REDACTED [ANG.0140.001.0122]

MAKO/File Online webpage for Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0120]

File Note on Louis Daniels made by Celia Irving [ANG.0140.001.0124]

4. Your understanding of when and in what circumstances the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, or any of its clergy or office-holders, became aware of allegations of child sexual abuse against Louis Daniels, and the Diocesan response to such allegations.

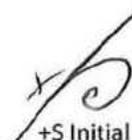
Louis Daniels' mother and various of his siblings attended the Parish of REDACTED during the period in which the allegations arose. I expect that they would have known of these allegations. While it is possible that clergy and office holders may have known I do not have specific knowledge of this.

My understanding is that the letter written in 1997 from Bishop Newell (Tasmania) to Bishop Browning (Canberra & Goulburn) formed the first indication that Louis Daniels had been the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse.

In 2002 Mr BYF made further allegations of abuse against Louis Daniels in a letter sent to Bishop Browning. This allegation, and Mr Daniels' imprisonment for offences against other children, then prompted the deposition of Louis Daniels from holy orders.

Letter from Bishop Newell to Bishop Browning [ANG.0140.001.0006]

Statement Of BYF [ANG.0140.001.0013]

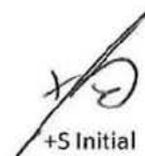

+S Initial

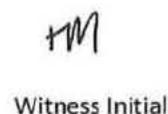

Witness Initial

5. Your knowledge of the process by which Louis Daniels was deposed from Holy Orders in 2002.

The attached documents show that the Discipline Ordinance 2001 was used to depose Louis Daniels from Holy Orders in 2002. All documents related to the deposition were earlier provided to the Royal Commission and are included again as attached.

Statement Of BYF [ANG.0140.001.0013]
Email from David Holmesby to Richard Refshauge [ANG.0140.001.0017]
Letter from David Horton to BYF [ANG.0140.001.0018]
Letter from David Holmesby to BYF [ANG.0140.001.0019]
Letter From David Holmesby To Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0022]
File note of telephone conversation between BYF and David Holmesby [ANG.0140.001.0024]
Letter From Louis Daniels to David Holmesby [ANG.0140.001.0025]
Email from Louis Daniels to David Holmesby [ANG.0140.001.0026]
Letter from David Holmesby to BYF [ANG.0140.001.0030]
Letter from David Holmesby to Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0034]
Letter From Louis Daniels to David Holmesby [ANG.0140.001.0036]
Decision in the matter of Louis Daniels before the Tribunal of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn [ANG.0140.001.0039]
Letter from David Holmesby to George Browning [ANG.0140.001.0041]
Letter from Richard Refshauge to Audrey Mills [ANG.0140.001.0042]
Letter from Davis Holmesby to Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0043]
Formal deposition of holy orders [ANG.0140.001.0044]
Letter from Browning G To Daniels L [ANG.0140.001.0045]
Letter from George Browning to John Harrower [ANG.0140.001.0046]
Letter from Louis Daniels to George Browning [ANG.0140.001.0047]


+S Initial


Witness Initial

6. The nature and extent of any risk management plans implemented by the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, either during or prior to your Bishopric, in relation to Louis Daniels.

From what can be determined in documentation retained by the Diocese, there was no formal risk management plan in place for Louis Daniels prior to my time as Bishop.

The available documentation shows that the Professional Standards Reference Group (the diocesan body charged with advising the Bishop and Bishop-in-Council with professional standards and safe ministry policy) had formalised Safety Plans as a risk management tool by June 2005, one month after Louis Daniels' second incarceration began. This occurred through the awareness of the risk posed by those convicted of child-related sexual offences.

Louis Daniels was still incarcerated for the second time when I was installed as Diocesan Bishop. In June 2012, prior to his release from prison, I wrote to Louis Daniels initiating what was to become the foundation of risk management for Louis Daniels. After Louis Daniels was released from prison, the Reverend Peter Barnett from our Professional Standards unit interacted with him, the Rector of the parish he wished to attend (Rev REDACTED), REDACTED and a church warden (Mr REDACTED) to establish this Safety Plan. In due course the Diocese paid for Louis Daniels to undertake an assessment with Dr Katie Seidler, a forensic psychologist. The report from Dr Seidler informed the development of the Safety Plan for Louis Daniels. Training was provided for the members of the Safety Team, again informed by the report given by Dr Seidler. Details of the Safety Plan and training for the Safety Team have already been furnished to the Royal Commission, but are attached again below. The Safety Plan is reviewed annually and adjustments made as required, as evidenced in the attached documentation. As the Safety Plan is managed by lay members of the congregation that Louis Daniels attends, and overseen by diocesan Professional Standards officers, it is not dependent upon the Rector or clergy of the Parish.

Email from Alan Wilson to Celia Irving and others [ANG.0140.001.0117]

Professional Standards Reference Group - Notes on Meeting [ANG.0140.002.0001]

Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn - Professional Standards Reference Group [ANG.0140.002.0003]

Letter from Louis Daniels to Stuart Robinson [ANG.0140.001.0131]

Letter from Stuart Robinson to Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0126]

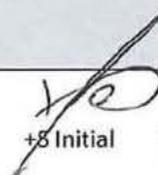
Letter from Stuart Robinson to Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0133]

Email chain from REDACTED [ANG.0140.001.0140]

Email chain between REDACTED [ANG.0140.001.0178]

Interim Safety Agreement 2012 [ANG.0140.001.0216]

Email to Support Group for Louis Daniels 160912 [ANG.0140.001.0189]

 
+8 Initial Witness Initial

Email from REDACTED [ANG.0140.002.0007]
 Psychological Risk Assessment Report - Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0147]
 Psychological Risk Assessment Report - Executive Summary - Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0142]
 Email from REDACTED to Louis Daniels 301012 [ANG.0140.001.0221]
 Interim Safety Agreement for Louis Daniels 2012 [ANG.0140.001.0216]
 Individual Safety Agreement for Louis Daniels [ANG.0140.001.0227]
 Email from REDACTED and others 170613 [ANG.0140.001.0247]
 Email from REDACTED and others [ANG.0140.001.0254]
 Email from REDACTED and others [ANG.0140.001.0271]
 Individual Safety Agreement Feb 14 to Feb 15 [ANG.0140.001.0248]
 Individual Safety Agreement Review March 15 [ANG.0140.001.0276]
 Professional Standards Summary Report [ANG.0140.001.0287]

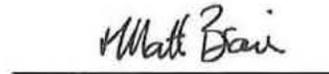


 Rt Rev Stuart P Robinson

Bishop

Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Date: 11 / 01 / 16



 Name: Matt Brain

Witness

At: Level 4 221 London Cct Canberra

Date: 11 / 1 / 16

 
 S Initial Witness Initial