

From: [Suryamitra](#)
To: [Terry O'Connell](#); [Bert Franzen](#)
Cc: [Yogasandhan](#); [Poornamurti \(Phil\) Connor](#); [Gurubhakta](#)
Subject: Re: Tim Clark
Date: Friday, 16 May 2014 10:39:45 AM

Dear Terry

Thank you for this valuable guidance; we will respond as you suggest. Most (well, actually all at the moment) of the correspondence is going to Yogasandhan as she is manning the working together gmail address but it's essential for us all to know how to respond in case we get any phone calls etc.

Thanks again for your support, and thanks for the update on Alecia. It is good to know that there is some positive effect. We've already had one other person at least who is going to apply for the support, so the ball is rolling.

On a different note, please let me know how you want to manage the invoicing side of things - you only need to reply to me on this one. It is up to you how often you would like to send invoices but for us it would be useful to note who it's for, how long, and what other expenses are involved (phone etc). In order to make this confidential (as the invoices are stored on file and accessible to all the office staff and the auditors) perhaps the invoice can be an overall time and expenses record and detail can be in a separate spreadsheet? No hurry, but when you get a moment let me know your thoughts.

Many thanks

Suryamitra

From: Terry O'Connell [mailto:realjustice2@bigpond.com]
To: Bert Franzen [mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au]
Cc: Suryamitra Saraswati [mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net], Sarah Tetlow [mailto:REDACTED], Yogasandhan [mailto:yogasandhan@satyananda.net], Poornamurti [mailto:REDACTED], Gurubhakta [mailto:gurubhakta@satyananda.net]
Sent: Fri, 16 May 2014 08:18:32 +1000
Subject: Re: Tim Clark

Dear Suryamitra,

It will be important to stick to what Bert suggests, restricting conversations to application forms. It is important to remember that the Support Pack has just been sent out and that you can expect to receive emails and calls from folks who have a need to vent. In truth, anything you say is only going to evoke more of the same. I am well placed to respond so I am more than happy to have you direct any emails from the Ashram survivors to me.

I received one such email and this has provided me with the potential to connect with the survivor. Below is the communication relating to this email:

To Terry O Connell

I am a past survivor past abuses by the ashram and I have read the Survivor Support Pack which I understand has been guided by you in a professional capacity. The abuses I suffered were severe and prolonged and included sexual, physical and psychological. I have had to watch from a distance as I find myself re traumatised by the discussions going on.

I am writing to let you know that this Survivor Pack is a great big joke and has given me no hope that this process is remotely genuine and is just another form of abuse. Non of it has been consultative with the real survivors. A bunch of phone numbers for some free counselling

and some misinformed judgement on the relevance of the Royal Commission to this case is outrageous and I think you have a lot to answer for putting your name to this farce.

To put it lightly I have no faith in you or your professionalism or the ashram to do the right thing. This has shown a complete ignorance of the effect of severe trauma caused by the ashram on children and adults involved.

I responded:

Dear xxxx,

I am pleased that you emailed me to express your anguish about the Survivor Support Pack. I am not surprised with your reaction to these developments and in a recent email from another survivor, I was asked to explain why I should be trusted. I said that I could not think of a single reason for why this person should trust me given I have been paid [for my professional services] by the Ashram.

I asked what it would take for this person to 'trust' me? What would I need to do? Whilst this person struggled to answer these questions, I did offer to speak with her. Presently I am speaking with a number of survivors and based on feedback, they have found it useful.

I have lots of experience working with victims [and families] of sexual abuse, including some who were abused by Catholic clergy. Without exception my involvement with each of these matters has proved to be very positive. The following is an extract from an email I received recently from a 50 year old male victim of a Catholic priest. This person [like yourself] has been to hell and back. I hope it gives you some sense of what I might have to offer:

*It's really wonderful what is happening and I feel like I am relaxing a bit more having come thus far. Terry as an abused person, and what I have encountered with the church response, I would like to say what you have done is absolutely fantastic, I know this would help so many.....being cocooned by the others and led gently has made me feel safe,wanted,understood and this is all very genuine.
I would advocate this to anyone.....so God Bless Terry*

xxxx, this person had a horrible experience as part of the Catholic Church's Towards Healing process. I was asked if I might help but I realised that I would be faced with the same challenge, why should this person trust me? If you are interested in finding out what helped this person, than I am more than happy to talk with you.

I know that it is a small world and that Ashram survivors are constantly talking with one another. I know that I will ultimately be judged on what I contribute in the life of an Ashram survivor and less on what I write or say.

If you are interested in talking with me, please send me your contact number/s.

warm regards

Terry

Suryamitra, I spent a couple of hours talking with Alecia and her husband in **REDACTED** two days ago. She found it useful and asked if I would chat with her mum.

Given what is happening, I think there are some positive things unfolding.

many thanks

Terry

Terry O'Connell
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On 16/05/2014, at 7:57 AM, Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au> wrote:

Hi Suryamitra

Just a quick heads-up on Tim. He started to send abusive Text messages to me because I wouldn't answer his calls. I sent back a text stating that I couldn't pick up his calls as I was otherwise occupied (which was true) that I didn't appreciate the threatening tone of his voice mail and text message, that I wouldn't be returning his calls and for him to contact the Ashram directly.

My view is that the only interaction the Ashram should have with him (as he's clearly unbalanced) is via his application form. No application form, no interaction.

Kind regards

Bert Franzen

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