

17.7.2012

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To,

Family and Community Development Committee.

Parliament House.

Spring Street,

East Melbourne. Vic. 3002.

Re; Inquiry into handling of child abuse by religious and other organizations.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ray Shingles. I am 52 years of age. I was in Kilmany Park Boys Home via Sale. This home was run by the Presbyterian Church. I was in this home for approximately four years.

I first made contact with the Uniting Church in an attempt to get my file. They stated to me that could find no record of me having been in KPBH. They asked me for the names of other boys who had been in KPBH with me. This I did. The other boy's files were there on record. Mine was not.

I next made contact with Rev Anne Keys, from the Uniting Church in Sale. I told her of what my experiences were at KPBH. She showed great concern. Rev Keys informed me that she had been informed of other boy's experiences at KPBH which were just as brutal as my own. She was investigating these allegations.

Rev Keys gave me the phone number to ring Rev [REDACTED] in the Melbourne Diocese.

I rang [REDACTED] on two occasions. He was not interested in helping me; in fact he was very defiant against me. He insisted on me as to whether I could prove my allegations. He also asked me what it was that I wanted from the Church, because under no circumstances, would the Church be paying out any compensation to me or anyone else.

Months later, I ran into Rev Keys in Sale. She asked me how I was getting on. I explained the conversations that I had had with Rev [REDACTED]. Rev Keys was shocked. She stated that she had spoken to [REDACTED] personally about my situation. Rev [REDACTED] had assured her that the Church was paying for all my counselling and meeting all my other needs as they arose. I informed Rev Keys that this was not true. All my counselling was paid for by the State government through Open Place. Rev

Keys then explained to me that the Archdiocese of the Uniting Church was about to move her out of Sale because of her inquiries into the allegations that occurred at KPBH.

I have never seen or spoken to Rev Anne Keys again.

I next engaged solicitors and a barrister to sue the Uniting church for damages. At a personal cost of many thousands of dollars.

At mediation with Uniting Church solicitors and barristers, the Uniting Church stated through their legal team, that the Uniting Church was not responsible for any liabilities occurred by the Presbertain Church. This church did not exist anymore. Therefore they could not be held liable.

It was my legal teams' opinion that I would have to have the court decide whether this was indeed true. If I lost, I would probably have a legal bill of many tens of thousands of dollars plus the Uniting Churches costs.

My court case was stopped in its tracks. This was money I simply did not have.

The Uniting Church agreed to pay me a token amount in good faith, while not accepting any responsibility.

I was also forced to sign a document stating that I would not take any further action against the Uniting Church, nor would I discuss the settlement with anyone. Otherwise, I would receive nothing.

These have been my dealings with the Uniting Church. From my brutal upbringing in KPBH as a child, which was sanctioned by the Church, to the present day.

And as of today's date, I still have not been given my file from KPBH.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Ray Shingles.

Ray Shingles.