

Subject: Email from Peter O'Callaghan
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 21 December 2011 12:14 PM

Dictated but not read over

Dear Ray

I refer to our conversation last week and apologise for the relative delay in getting back to you.

I confirm that I am the Independent Commissioner appointed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne to enquire into and report upon allegations of sexual abuse by priests, religious and laypersons within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. If I am satisfied that a person is a victim of sexual abuse I can refer that person to Carelink which is an agency set up to provide free counselling and psychological support for victims of sexual abuse. Carelink is administered by Ms Sue Sharkey, psychologist, to whom I will make reference hereunder.

Being satisfied as aforesaid I could also refer you to the Compensation Panel which has jurisdiction to make binding recommendations of compensation up to a limit of \$75,000. The Compensation Panel will accept my findings that sexual abuse has occurred and will be concerned only to assess the impact which that abuse has had upon the life of the victim. The Panel meets with a victim in an informal and non legalistic manner.

You have told me that you have a complaint against Fr Ronald Pickering (deceased), and you were going to compile a statement setting out the facts and circumstances of the abuse. You explained to me that you are having some difficulty in doing this and that I can well understand.

You also said to me that you are in considerable distress and in that context I told you which I confirm that in the circumstances I can refer you to Carelink before making a decision in respect of your complaint that you had been sexually abused.

Accordingly, I suggest that you contact Ms Sue Sharkey and explain to her your present position, with a view to having her nominate a practitioner in Adelaide who could provide therapy to you. Alternatively if you are already going to a practitioner she could liaise with that practitioner and subject to that practitioner being duly accredited Carelink would pay the fees. Carelink is situated at 25 Lansdowne Street East Melbourne and Ms Sue Sharkey can be contacted on 03 9663 5744. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this email to Ms Sharkey so she will be familiar with the position if you contact her.

I await hearing from you with respect to the statement and will endeavour to process this matter expeditiously.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

P.J. O'Callaghan QC
Independent Commissioner

Telephone: 9225 7979