

Statement – Tuesday, February 18, 2014

## STATEMENT FROM ADELAIDE ARCHDIOCESE ON ST ANN'S MATTER



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The Archdiocese of Adelaide rejects the allegations made recently about the St Ann's case and the litigation related to it.

Archbishop Philip Wilson has, from the outset, shown the utmost concern and compassion for the victims of Brian Perkins and their families. As soon as he learned about the shocking reality of this case, he apologised to the victims and their families and he put in place pastoral and counselling support for anyone who needed it.

In 2003 the Archbishop also paid \$2.25 million in unconditional, ex-gratia payments to families, without requiring any proof of abuse of their children, in an effort to help support them through this most difficult matter. He continued over extended periods to offer counselling and pastoral support for whoever required such assistance.

The Archbishop also encouraged families to consult with their lawyers to ensure that their rights were fully protected. A minority of families have since decided to issue proceedings. Those proceedings are in the control of the Courts, not the Archbishop.

Archbishop Wilson is aware that legal proceedings can and often do take a long time to progress through the Courts and while that is a matter of regret, he has not caused any delay in their progress.

Like everyone involved in this matter, the Archbishop was horrified to learn of the abuse perpetrated in this case and he repeats his sincere sorrow and regret that it ever occurred. He is hopeful that the Court actions will be resolved as quickly and smoothly as possible.