



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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The Body of Elders

REDACTED

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Brothers:

Recently we arranged for two elders, REDACTED to interview REDACTED regarding an accusation made by REDACTED against him of child abuse. Essentially, REDACTED has admitted the claims made by REDACTED has had a previous accusation of sexual abuse made against him by REDACTED a former sister, but he has denied this. He has admitted to an "accidental contact" with another sister REDACTED. Suspicion exists that others may have been molested.

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REDACTED He himself has suffered abuse at the hands of others. However, our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our children requires that his conduct be monitored to ensure this, and that we take whatever precautions are warranted to protect the congregation. For this reason the spirit represented in the restrictions that would be imposed on a baptised known child abuser should guide the elders if consideration is ever given to extending privileges to him in the congregation. The Society should be consulted. The consequences that flow from such abhorrent behaviour cannot be evaded.—*The Watchtower*, January 1, 1997 "Let Us Abhor What Is Wicked" pages 26-9.

Many times when these matters are considered we think of the perpetrator, his personality and the privileges he may have lost when his sins have been exposed. Very little thought is given to the suffering and in many cases the irreparable damage done to the victim. Our hearts must go out to those suffering emotional, psychological and spiritual damage caused by the selfish conduct of others. To say that a victim was a willing participant or the victim was not forced is to completely ignore the often-unconscious pressure or dominance exerted by the perpetrator, reflecting a dangerous callousness.

REDACTED

We count it a privilege to be associated with you in the furtherance of Kingdom interests worldwide. Please accept our Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B.S. Society
OF AUSTRALIA