

Ex worker Raises Questions About Australasian Overseers Letter

Christchurch,

Sunday July 9.

Dear Wayne,

This morning I received a letter concerning CSA which had your name, among others, at the bottom.

I acknowledge that the letter is quite well-written in the main, but it also raises serious issues. Clearly, the letter is not written or sent out in good faith, as the signatories are well aware of a person currently in the Ministry who has not been – and so far, is not being – dealt with according to the stated protocols.

I refer to Craig Janke in QLD, who very clearly falls within the scope of people who should not be attending meetings and yet is being allowed to even remain in the Ministry.

Craig was in South Australia in your time there, and you were made aware of allegations against him relating to inappropriate behaviour towards children (in fact, it seems likely that you actually knew of this before he arrived in the state). It is a known fact that you privately acknowledged that you were satisfied that the allegations against him have substance (though in a meeting of church elders in the field where Craig had been you later downplayed it and gave the impression that there was nothing in the allegations). You arranged for him to be sent back to QLD because of these matters, and I understand you made the remark that you would not have him in the ministry in your state. On his return to QLD he eventually returned to a role in the ministry and has remained there until this time. It is beyond understanding how you have dared to produce a letter which claims that you will deal with CSA matters when you are allowing this person to retain a ministry role. This is dishonest and deceitful behaviour. You need to be aware that I have begun to share these facts with everybody who raises the issue of the letter to me, and I will continue to do so.

A further matter of concern relates to the conspicuous absence of Max Goldsack's name from the bottom of the letter, which has served to focus a spotlight on him and has caused many questions to be raised. The comment most frequently made about this is that it is likely because your overseer group are aware (as you would be) of Max's questionable record on moral matters, including his well-known homosexual relationships. Personally, it was with jaw-dropping disbelief that I heard he was to be appointed overseer of the state of West Australia – this was an open assault on the principles of the Bible, a betrayal of the ministry and the Church, and a death-blow to the credibility of the overseer group.

These concerns are not trivial, nor may they be ignored. Please take notice that this letter will be shared, by any means, with anybody who has an interest in these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Thompson

WINGS Note: The original letter from most Australian and New Zealand overseers was posted 1st July <https://wingsfortruth.info/2023/07/01/australia-nz-letter-to-the-church/>