

Hospice eviction has nuns on the hop

Two members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were this week asked to leave a Foundation Day ceremony at the Sacred Heart Hospice at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlington.

Ray Prasad (aka Sister Mary Desmond Three Three with a Bloody Good Tan) told *Capital Q* he and John Stevens (aka Sister Dominatrix Reverend Stink Finger), attended the Foundation Day function, dressed for the occasion and intending to say thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Hospice.

While standing in the foyer, a staff member asked them to leave, saying that she would not allow them to send up the Church. "I was appalled," Prasad said. "I'm horrified that they still feel this way – it's ridiculous."

Chief Executive Officer of the Hospice, Ian Mills, described the incident as a very difficult situation. "Some people would obviously take offence, and some people wouldn't," he said.

The staff member who asked Prasad and Stevens to leave believed that their presence might have been an affront to the Sisters of Charity, Mills said.

Stevens told *Capital Q* that although the Sisters were later admitted to the function, and have since received an apology from a representative of the Hospice, he was disappointed that the staff member in question did not apologise.

"It is sad that the Catholic Church wants to be charitable, yet also wants to hold onto its homophobia," Stevens said.

The Foundation Day function, on 15 August, celebrated the Hospice's 105th anniversary. Apart from the incident with the Sisters, Mills said the day was very successful. **Q**

Event held on the 15th August 1995 - Publication - Capitol Q