



# Anglican Church of Australia DIOCESE OF TASMANIA

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*From the Registrar  
William Haas*

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL  
Mr Steven Fisher  
C/- The Reverend Canon Eric Cave

REDACTED  
[REDACTED]

27 June 2001

Dear Steve,

Following your meeting with the Bishop on 16 May, the Bishop met with the Reverend Garth Hawkins. Mr Hawkins denied all allegations of misconduct as you had described. He did admit to 'perhaps' making the comment at your wedding to which you referred. This he says was done in the spirit of making everyone laugh.

The video which you delivered to me along with two statutory declarations on 5 June confirms that he did make such comments at your wedding. My opinion is that they were most embarrassing, unnecessary and inappropriate.

Our rules make it necessary for the Bishop, if he believes that a matter warrants criminal investigation, that he advise the relevant authorities. Because you were a minor at the time of the alleged offences the matter has been referred to the Commissioner of Police. The Commissioner has been requested to review the file of the investigation both you and the Reverend Garth Hawkins referred to in discussions with the Bishop.

Subsequently the Commissioner requested from the Bishop the statutory declarations made by you and these have been delivered to him on a confidential basis.

Should the police decide to pursue the matter the Bishop shall allow that to occur without interference and with full co-operation.

If the police decide that they will not proceed, the Bishop will decide whether or not to pursue the matter under Anglican Church procedures. This will involve independent assessors meeting with Mr Hawkins, most likely with you and possibly others before making a recommendation to the Bishop.

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I shall communicate to you the result of advice from the police and the Bishop's decision as soon as possible.

I acknowledge that more than one month has expired since your meeting with the Bishop, but I had verbally advised Canon Cave of what little progress there was and understood that you had received information in conversation with him from time to time.

You may be assured that you will be kept informed, but proper procedures must be followed and sometimes the pace of these is beyond our control.

You may also be assured that Steven Fisher has not been forgotten in this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Haas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Haas  
Registrar

Copy: The Bishop  
The Reverend Canon Eric Cave

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