

ANGLICAN MEDIA TASMANIA**PO BOX 405****SANDY BAY****TASMANIA 7006.****PHONE** REDACTED**EMAIL:** REDACTED**26 July 2000****MEDIA RELEASE:
BISHOP'S SORROW OVER SEXUAL ABUSE**

The new Bishop of Tasmania the Right Reverend John Harrower, has apologised unreservedly to victims of sexual abuse in the diocese.

Bishop Harrower was ordained and installed as the eleventh bishop of Tasmania at a special service in St David's Cathedral last night, overseen by the Primate the Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley.

Speaking at his first media conference this morning in Hobart Bishop Harrower said that he was aware that the issue of sexual abuse has been a source of great hurt and pain in Tasmania:

"The fact that this abuse ever occurred is a great sadness to me and I know to many others. I'm aware that the abuse has damaged the lives of a number of people and in many cases impaired relationships with both loved ones and God. None of this has furthered the way of Christ or the cause of the Christian Gospel."

He said: "While it is not possible to undo the wrongs of the past it is possible for me as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Tasmania to say I am deeply sorry for what took place. I would like to make an unreserved apology to those who were sexually abused by clergy or other officers of the Anglican Church in Tasmania."

The Bishop said his heart went out to those who had been abused. He said: "These abuses should never have happened and I pledge myself, as Bishop to do all I can to ensure that such abuses do not happen again."

Bishop Harrower said that the Diocese of Tasmania now in place a clergy code of ethics, requiring them to refrain from sexual exploitation or harassment of any kind.

He said: "There is also a clearly defined protocol for assessing the veracity of any allegations of sexual misconduct against office holders of the Diocese. As a result of the 1998 Pastoral Inquiry into sexual abuse we established a

service known as ASAP - Anglican Support for Abused People - which is available to anyone 24 hours a day by calling 1800 017 286."

Bishop Harrower also handed out copies of a special Blessing for Tasmania he had written and which he used at the bend of the service on the steps of the Cathedral:

A BLESSING FOR TASMANIA

God of all Life,

Bless in abundance the lives of the people of Tasmania.

Enrich our society with relationships that deepen our common life.

Grant seasonal weather to our State,

And enable us, by your grace, to create life-enriching work for our unemployed.

God of all Life, bless Tasmania.

God of all Light,

Bless this State with leadership that is honest and caring.

Send the light of your wisdom on our work and our play.

Shine the light of your justice on all our dealings,

So that these islands may reflect your light in all the world.

God of all Light, bless Tasmania.

God of all Love,

Bless Tasmania with your love, in all we say and do.

Help us to love one another, as neighbours and friends.

Care for families whose young have left these shores.

And by your good Spirit, ignite our love for Christ.

God of all Love, bless Tasmania.

In the Name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.