



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

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The Right Reverend
 Dr. Brian FARRAN,
 Bishop of Newcastle,
 P.O Box 817,
 Newcastle,
 NSW, 2300

9th September 2010

Re: Proposed Amendments to Professional Standards Ordinance

Dear Bishop Brian,

I write to express concern regarding proposed amendments to the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance. I understand that proposed amendments have been put forward by the Chancellor, several meetings have taken place to progress the matter and there are plans for the matter to be taken before Diocesan Council for consideration.

I am concerned about the lack of formal consultation with myself with regard to the proposed amendments to date. Since it is my role to apply the ordinance in a practical sense, I would have expected that close consultation with my office was warranted.

I would like to put forward the following general advice in regard to this issue;

Any amendment to policies and procedures in relation to Professional Standards processes should only be undertaken in the following context;

- 1) Following completion and thorough consideration of the current review process of the Gumbley and COJ matters being undertaken by Professor Patrick Parkinson
- 2) Following formal advice from Garth Blake S.C who played a key role in development and implementation of the Professional Standards Ordinance nationally.
- 3) Following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to; the Director of Professional Standards, The Professional Standards Committee, The Professional Standards Board and Diocesan Council.
- 4) Any amendments to either policy or procedure that were enacted would not impact on current outstanding Professional Standards matters. To apply amendments to these matters would severely erode the integrity of those proceedings.

I ask that you consider my advice carefully as I have serious concerns about what appears to be unfolding and the motives behind it. If you wish to discuss this matter please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Elliott

Director of Professional Standards
 Anglican Diocese of Newcastle