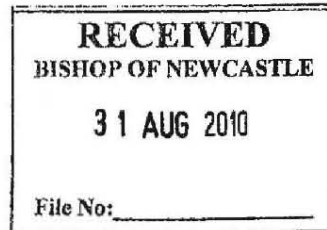


Diocese of Newcastle
RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION
 Association for Retired Clergy, Spouses and Widows

Phone: [REDACTED]
 Email: [REDACTED]

President:
 Rev'd Robert Catt
 [REDACTED]

27th August, 2010



The Right Rev'd B G Farran
 Bishop of Newcastle
 P.O. Box 817
 NEWCASTLE 2300

Dear Bishop Brian

At the recent meeting of the Retired Clergy Association concerns were raised about the suspension of clergy and related matters. There was an expression of solidarity and support for those affected.

A lengthy discussion took place and it was resolved unanimously that I should write to inform you of those concerns. The concerns as perceived and expressed could be summarised in these particular areas:

- The adequacy of pastoral care and support for those suspended
- The withholding of the nature or substance of any allegations from a person suspended
- The protracted and delayed nature of proceedings, meaning that "justice delayed is justice denied"
- The great expense to which a suspended person may be put, even if eventually cleared, especially for clergy who are already on a low income by community standards
- The continuation of investigations and proceedings by the Diocese when the NSW Police have indicated that they have conducted investigations and have no charges or concerns.

It was felt that the current Ordinance is in urgent need of review and amendment to provide a far more just, transparent, efficient and pastorally sensitive way of dealing with such matters.

Members acknowledged the great distress that these matters have caused to everyone involved, including yourself, and wish to assure you of their continuing prayers for all parties.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Robert S. Catt
 President