



# COPY

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Stuart

Administrator of the  
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

21 February 2013

Mr Michael Elliott  
The Professional Standards Director  
The Diocese of Newcastle  
PO Box 817  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Michael,

As the Administrator I have been advised of recommendations from the Working Group established by the General Synod Standing Committee to assist this Church's response to the Royal Commission. I am writing to you as the Director and as the Executive Officer of the Professional Standards Committee.

The Working Group is keen to ensure that Dioceses are well prepared in the circumstances they are required to produce documentation for or have their staff appear before the Royal Commission. I concur with this view recognising that any number of people including past and present senior officers may be required to respond to matters before the Commission.

Having reviewed the advice of the Working Group, and recognising that an instruction must come from within the Diocese, I wish to direct you and the Professional Standards Committee to undertake a review of the past cases in the form advised by the working group.

In order that you might do this I ask you to:

- 1) Commence immediately the process of reviewing past cases by identifying them, locating relevant files and documents and assessing the completeness and accuracy of those records.
- 2) Liaise with the heads of our diocesan schools and Samaritans to advise them to review past cases by identifying them, locating relevant files and documents and assessing the completeness and accuracy of those records. I will be writing to them separately to ask them to provide the relevant, de-identified information to you.

I request that a copy of all reports, in a de-identified form, be provided to me as the Administrator and to the Diocesan Business Manager as they are forwarded to the Working Group in order that we are fully informed.

I further request that we receive a fortnightly progress report. In that progress report you may need to identify any difficulties you are having in locating information and advise us accordingly in order that we may see what assistance can be provided.

It is possible that in undertaking this work the Professional Standards Committee forms a view that there has been a failure by a Church body or Church authority prior to the commencement of the Professional Standards Ordinance 2012 to investigate alleged conduct of a Church worker involving sexual misconduct or child abuse or alleged inappropriate or unreasonable conduct or omission of a Church worker who had knowledge of conduct of another Church worker involving sexual misconduct or child abuse. The Committee must regard that as information under the Ordinance and act in accordance with the Ordinance.

I understand that you or the Committee may form a view that a submission or submissions about the handling of sexual abuse of children within the Diocese should be made to the Royal Commission. In those circumstances I would ask that you ensure that the Bishop (or Bishop Administrator) are made privy to the content of such submissions to assist them in their cooperation with the Commission. The Bishop and the Diocesan Business Manager will ensure that you are privy to any submissions made by them.

I recognise that these requests represent an increased workload on the Professional Standards area. I ask that the Committee monitor workload issues and advise the Diocesan Business Manager of any needs as they may arise.

Yours sincerely in Christ



**Bishop Peter Stuart**  
**Administrator**