

*Stephen Gray*  
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TO MR. WILLIAM KEITH ALLEN, SOLICITOR  
ACTING ON BEHALF OF STEPHEN GRAY

I respond to your request from Counsel asking for a written reference for Stephen Gray, and I am happy to provide one.

I appointed Stephen Gray to the Parish of Wyong on 1 August, 1988. He had come from the Archdiocese of Sydney, who commended him to me as a priest with many gifts and particularly a great compassion for the outcasts of society. His work in Darlinghurst had borne out this latter comment.

In the eighteen months that he served at Wyong he showed good leadership qualities and was able to identify all segments of that society. It would be true to say that he was beginning a very "successful" ministry there. He was ably supported by his wife, [REDACTED] and on two occasions when I had dinner at their home I was impressed with the attitude and behaviour of their children.

I knew of Stephen Gray's abiding concern for [REDACTED], whom he had helped during that person's conversion to the Christian faith and his participation in the worship at St. John's.

As I understand it, Stephen Gray was highly regarded by the Darlinghurst community, and before he came to Wyong I received a number of expressions of support from those parishioners.

Until this incident that led to his being charged, his record at Wyong was exemplary.

I am deeply sorry this matter has occurred, and to me, it seems totally out of character. I would hope that consideration can be given to Stephen Gray for him to begin to re-build his life. It is highly unlikely that any Bishop will license him for priestly work, and I believe his life, for a number of years at least, will be channelled in a secular occupation.

*ALLEN.*



4/11/2014