



The Most Reverend Roger Herft
Archbishop of Perth
 Anglican Church of Australia
 Diocese of Perth

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PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Right Reverend Dr Brian Farran
 Bishop of Newcastle
 By email

Dear Brian

Please be assured of our prayers for you and the diocese and particularly for those who have been abused by the actions of Peter Rushton. It is an extremely distressing time given the role that Peter was in.

I inherited Peter as an Archdeacon and recall that at least on one occasion I sought to have his licence removed on the basis that he was found in possession of adult pornographic material. This was prior to the *Faithfulness in Service* document. I was seeking to discipline him on the grounds of conduct unbecoming of a clergyperson. He brought a lawyer with him and it became clear that if I had acted they would have taken the diocese and myself to court. Their defence was that it was something that he did in the privacy of his home and did not impact upon other people. As you can imagine I took a different position. Even though I never viewed the material I reckoned it was something that impacted on the spiritual health of a priest.

All of these matters should be in the separate records kept concerning matters of conduct unbecoming of clergy in the safe in the diocese. The material now forthcoming of abuse against minors puts his offending in a category that can only be described as diabolical. The impact on those abused and their families is devastating.

Blessings and peace.

Yours sincerely

+ *Roger*

The Most Reverend Roger Herft
Archbishop