

4. COMPLAINT RELATING TO THE VEN.Fr. Peter Rushton.

The complaint is now expanded because in examining further information it is believed that the Diocesan Council's legitimate concerns with the procedures and fairness of the Professional Standards Board are being sidelined by the Bishop. The Parkinson Report referred to by the Bishop was not shown to the Diocesan Council but responded to by the Professional Standards Committee Chair Geoff Spring. His response was made available to the Council but they did not have the report.

The allegations against Fr P Rushton are against a person who has been dead for a number of years. He is clearly no able to respond to the allegations made against him. This is outside the brief of the 2005 ordinance.

In his Synod Address the Bishop and in the Lay Conference by the Bishop and the Questions asked to the Bishop and he made further statements concerning the paedophile ring in the Diocese.

These involved synods people and clergy and can be verified by them .They occurred at the time of the Synod and the article in the Newcastle Herald specifies the time period. Late in 2010.The Bishop is quoted in the Newcastle Herald on the matter of notifications.

"I'm dreadfully sorry for the person who has made the complaint," he said.

"I think that when a person makes a complaint, even if it was a mischievous complaint and I am not suggesting that at all, there would be something that is prompting them to do that and it is a very regretful situation all round." Newspaper article attributed to Bishop Farran.

It is interesting that no mention is made of the accused although the Ordinance which was passed in 2005 is quite clear in noting the support for that person as well as the accuser. Questions have been consistently asked of the Bishop's failure to appoint Chaplains or arrange counselling for the accused in the case in Newcastle Diocese despite the ordinance.

He is again quoted in the Newcastle Herald today 8/6/2011 as lamenting the fact that the complainants to the Episcopal Standards Board have not made their complaints known to him or to give him a copy of the allegations against him....does he do that to others?

Media articles.

Statement to the SYNOD

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/hunter-priests-evil-child-sex-secrets/1973208.aspx>

Hunter priest's evil child sex secrets

BY JOANNE MCCARTHY

20 Oct, 2010 04:00 AM

*Newcastle Anglican Bishop Brian Farran has revealed **allegations** that well-known priest Father Peter Rushton was a serial child sex abuser throughout his 40-year career in the Hunter.*

Police are investigating whether Father Rushton, who died in 2007, was part of a broader paedophile ring involving other Anglican clergy.

His secrets emerged yesterday when the diocese conceded it suspected there were many more victims to come forward.
[On what is this incredible assertion based.] Bp. Farran likes to defame the dead!!!

Father Rushton completed his training at St John's Theological College in Morpeth and worked at Cessnock, Wyong, Weston, Wallsend, Lake Macquarie and Maitland.

Bishop Farran yesterday apologised publicly to Father Rushton's victims and confirmed the late priest's "involvement in the sexual abuse of minors".

Is this based on the Bishop's personal investigations?

He said the diocese was co-operating fully with police who are investigating the actions of Father Rushton and other clergy.

No evidence and no further indication that this occurred. The priest ASSISTING those allegedly involved has now transferred to Bathurst another Diocese.

Bishop Farran said some of Father Rushton's victims were now known to the church. He did not know how many others there might be and urged them to come forward. On what does he base this?

The diocese started working with police after "significant allegations and information of concern" were raised following Father Rushton's death.

Allegations include that he molested young boys who worked as servers during church services, or "arranged for it to happen", Bishop Farran said.

"The diocesan director of professional standards has been investigating these matters and is fully co-operating with NSW Police.

"The diocese has also been supporting persons who have come forward in relation to these matters."

Father Rushton worked in the diocese of Newcastle from 1963 until his death.

Bishop Farran first acknowledged the priest's offending at a special service at St Luke's parish, Wallsend, several months ago.

At another event last week, which some victims of clerical abuse refused to attend because Bishop Farran would also be there, he acknowledged that "for some I may be a symbol of hope, while for others I'm a symbol of shame and suffering".

In discussing this matter at the Lay Conference in an emotional situation the Bishop referred not to the allegations but to the actual

events which took place. This again illustrates the danger of the church involving itself in police matters and employing investigators who may or may not be reliable. Ref. the Response to the Parkinson Report.

There is no evidence that the police ever investigated the claims re Archdeacon Rushton. The Maitland Mercury had a denial from the local police.

It is our contention that Bishop Holland, Bishop Hertz, Bishop Appleby and Fr Bob Catt should be interviewed as to WHETHER they were ever informed that a paedophile ring existed in the Diocese AS CLAIMED BY Bishop Farran.

The belief by many is that the article in the Newcastle Herald was used as a "fishing expedition" to find information. This frightening attack on a dead man's credibility is a clear example of disgraceful conduct by Bishop Farran.

I believe that the records and papers of the Diocese of Newcastle should be investigated so that we may know if there is any material that in any way implicates a wide range of priests and the life and work of Fr. Peter Rushton.

The naming of convicted clergy in the public domain is question by the comment by Bishop Appleby attached. Has the Bishop engaged in disgraceful conduct by naming people or has he not placed these names on the church register?

In the Newcastle Herald article by Joanne McCarthy of 15 November, 2010 under the heading "Hunter Anglican paedophile network alleged". The article says, in part, "The names of a number of former Newcastle Anglican members will be entered on the church's national professional standards register according to the terms of a church canon in 2007" The article then goes on to mention Robert Ellmore, Ian Barrick, Allan Kitchingman and Stephen Gray. Such information could only have come from either the bp or the Director of PS. Is this a breach of the General Synod Ordinance.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY FR. C. BIRD AT THE OCTOBER 2010
SYNOD.

1. Does the Bishop,
2. the Diocesan Council
3. the Chancellor

Have confidence in the operation of the Professional Standards
Process?

They declined to answer.

To the Bishop and the Chancellor

In relation to the Director of Professional Standards appointment under Part 6 of the Professional Standards Ordinance, Clause 24. (2) The Director shall be appointed by and shall hold office in accordance with a resolution or any Regulation of the Diocesan Council, I ask the following questions:

1. When was the appointment made?
2. For what term was the appointment made?
3. Upon what terms was the appointment made?

The Minutes of the Diocesan Council indicate that the position of the Director of Professional Standards has not been regularised. P. 210 of the December 2010 meeting of the Diocesan Council.

The minutes of Diocesan bodies need to be investigated so the true position of the Director of Professional Standards can be established so that priests, laity and the community can know whether this person has been correctly appointed and the traumas he has created mine, Audrey Clark and the many priests and families and laity are legitimate. The Bishop has acted dishonestly and scandalously if he has not ensured that the ordinances have been followed, having had this matter drawn to his attention in the Synod, in the Diocesan council.

Selection from the Bishops Letter to Clergy.

As far as I am aware, the Episcopal Standards Commission's Chief Officer, Hon David Lloyd QC, a retired Judge has not yet received the alleged complaints, nor did any member of the General Synod Office staff open the envelope said to contain the complaints handed in to that office yesterday. Thus, my knowledge of them stems from the Herald article. The information in that article presumably came from the complainants, whoever they are.

Letter of Solicitor John Woodward on the Bishops use of the media.

Thank you for sending me a copy of the email letter from Bishop Farran. It is unfortunate that, even now, he does not seem to appreciate the irony implicit in his complaint that he has been denied the same procedural fairness which he, by his professional standards board, refused to accord to our clients the Revs Lawrence and Sturt.

The publication of allegations of professional misconduct before they are identified to the accused person is always unfair. I hope that the article which appeared in today's Newcastle Herald will help Bishop Farran to appreciate how it feels to be on the receiving end of this kind of injustice. I doubt that it will. His complaint of a three month delay in lodging the complaint against him pales to insignificance beside the delay of 27 years it took to make allegations against our clients. That is a fact of which he ought to be reminded.

Yours faithfully,

John Woodward, B.Leg.S., IPAA.