

**THE EPISCOPAL STANDARDS COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.**

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The Acting Director

Hon. David Lloyd Q.C.

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

Last Friday our group met again following the further media publicity in the Newcastle Herald by the Bishop on being attacked and referring to the Prof. Parkinson Report.

. Further documentation of Diocesan records have come to our attention re meetings held, deferral of decisions and attempts to interfere with the legitimate role of Church bodies and allegations of interference in Professional Standards processes.

It was resolved by the person present that a more generic complaint should be lodged and we have worked on that over the weekend and now submit that to you as well as the individually submitted complaints.

We enclose a **further complaint** against the Bishop of Newcastle. This complaint alleges that the Bishop engaged in conduct which is disgraceful in that:

1. He intimidated and harassed the clergy of the Diocese and prevented the Diocesan Council fulfilling its legitimate role.
2. He failed to implement and apply the Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance 2005.
3. He brought the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle into disrepute with media commentary on matters before the Professional Standards Committee.
4. He has maladministered the Diocese of Newcastle

There is widespread anguish concerning the terrible situation which prevails across the Diocese of Newcastle. Contrary to public assertions by Bishop Farran that "there is unrest at Christ Church Cathedral but ... the broad membership of the wider Newcastle Diocese was happy with his performance as Bishop", Bishop Farran has been forced to defend his actions in front of very unhappy congregations in a number of Anglican churches across the Hunter and NSW Central Coast. In the media in the parishes of Terrigal and Cooks Hill his actions were well publicized. Other parishes have written to him expressing their dismay and concern at the legalistic and uncaring administration of the diocese.

Anglicans of many years standing have left the Church, anecdotally significant numbers have withdrawn financial support, concerned at the direction in which Diocesan funds have been applied and many remaining priests and parishioners are saddened and disillusioned at what is happening across the Diocese of Newcastle.

Finally we would like to draw the ESC's attention to the remarks made by Bishop Farran in the Charge to Synod 2010 under the Professional Standards tab on Page 13 of his address of 23 October 2010. Bishop Farran does not identify to whom he refers as "heroic priestly figures" in derogatory terms in commenting on the culture of the Diocese. However in regard to his allegations about his being psychologically abused during his curacy it is known that Fr Graeme Lawrence was senior curate under Archdeacon Twigg when Bishop Farran was also a curate in the parish some forty years ago.

We pray that the ESC will see cause to intercede in the affairs of the Diocese of Newcastle.

Yours faithfully