

## COMPLAINT.

Some attempts have been made to illustrate these complaints below with relevant references where available.

### Intimidated Clergy and Diocesan Council

Clergy are dependent on the Bishop's goodwill for renewal of their term in the overwhelming majority of Newcastle parishes. (The majority of clergy have been appointed as priests-in-charge rather than as rectors.) Retired clergy are similarly dependent in regard to offers of locum to supplement meager resources. Neither group is prepared to speak out publicly about cases of harassment and intimidation by the Bishop for fear of reprisals. Clergy are all too aware of the manner in which the Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance has been applied.

A number of clergy have informally indicated to the group that they would speak to an ESC investigator on a confidential basis about their own experiences of harassment and intimidation.

The level of intimidation and control of the Diocesan Council by the Bishop is exemplified in a number of ways.

- \* The first relates to whether the Bishop's term was legally extended in or about 2009. At the same time the Bishop refused an extension of the term of office to the then Dean of Newcastle, a clergyman who had selflessly served the Anglican and wider Newcastle community without blemish for more than 25 years.
- \* The second relates to the effective sidelining of the Diocesan Council with respect to oversight of the Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance (NPSO).
- \* There is no Protocol which has been considered and approved by the Diocesan Council as required by Part 4 NPSO.
- \* The Diocesan Council has not considered terms and conditions on which members of the PSC are appointed or hold office. (Clause 11 NPSO).
- \* The Director of Professional Standards has not been appointed in accordance with any resolution of the Diocesan Council. (Clause 24(2) NPSO and Minutes of the Diocesan Council Meeting of 25 November 2010).
- \* Noting that the Bishop had his own legal adviser a motion for a legal adviser to be appointed to provide legal advice to the Diocesan Council was "deferred". (Minutes of the Diocesan Council Meeting of Nov.2010).
- \* A request for a special meeting to be held in February 2011 to consider amendments to the NPSO which had the effect of giving oversight of costs of Professional Standards matters was refused by the

Commissary.

**Failed to administer the Implementation of the Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance 2005.**

*There have been no steps taken to promote the knowledge, understanding and observance in this Church of any code of conduct applicable in the diocese. (Clause 6 NPSO).*

A protocol has not been implemented. (Part 4 NPSO and Letter of 8 November 2010 to Bishop from Chair of PSC).

The NPSO was amended in 2006 to significantly widen the definition of "**Church worker**". (Clause 2 NPSO). This has widened the definition.

The Bishop failed to appoint the Director of the Professional Standards Committee in accordance with Clause 24(2) of the NPSO.

The Bishop breached, or allowed to be breached, the confidentiality provisions of the NPSO in public statements made to Newcastle media. (Clause 17 NPSO and ABC News Report of 4 December 2009, Newcastle Herald Report of 20 October 2010, 09 December 2010, ABC News Report of 16 December 2010 and June 2011).

**Brought the Diocese of Newcastle into Public Disrepute**

The Bishop brought the Diocese into disrepute by making, or allowing to be made in the public media a claim that Anglican priest Fr Peter Rushton was a serial child abuser throughout his 40 year career after Fr Rushton had died and was unable to defend himself. (Newcastle Herald Report of 20 October 2010). This claim was made before any Professional Standards Board hearing or police investigation was conducted.

The Bishop speculated or implied in the public media that Fr Peter Rushton was part of a broader pedophile ring involving other Anglican clergy. (Newcastle Herald Reports of 19, 20, 22, 22, and 23 and 29 October 2010). This speculation or implication occurred before any Professional Standards Board hearing was conducted.

The Bishop made reference in the public media to criminal matters which had involved priests of the Catholic Church and maligned the Anglican Church with the statement that "the Anglican Church had its share of problems and had begun to take action to rectify things". (Newcastle Herald Report of 8 June 2011). There have however been no criminal matters involving an Anglican priest connected to this Diocese since 1992. (Newcastle Herald Report of 15 November 2010).

**Maladministration of the Diocese**

The administration of the Diocese has been in the hands of the Bishop and he has worked with an Archdeacon. The Archdeacon of Newcastle during most of the time was Fr. David Simpson. He is we understand prepared to talk to an investigator regarding the working of the Diocesan Office in his time.

The loss of clergy to the diocese and the continued expenditure on theological education with little result is of great concern to the future of the diocese. Data is available to support this contention.

The use of the media to intimidate his opponents in the diocese illustrates Bishop Farran's obsession with control. The failure to have regular updates on the progress of complaints to the Professional Standards Committee means complaints are either not reported to him or, if they are, he is allowing them not to be resolved if he is so inclined. There is clearly need for him to put in place administrative procedures to allow the requirements of the ordinance to be carried out.

Only after a thorough investigation of the diocese , its Diocesan Office and records will the full impact of this Bishop's intimidation and harassment be exposed.

Signed....

Simon Adam

Robert Caddies

Chris Mc Naughton

John McNaughton

Geoff Orrock

Lyn Scanlon

Laurie Tabart.