

BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE
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AUSTRALIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Archdeacons, The Dean and Area Deans
FROM: Bishop Roger
DATE: 12 September 1994

RE: Appointment of Diocesan Monitoring Committee to Consider issues of Sexual Harassment.

SXHAR.MMO

Greetings and Peace

I'm glad to inform you that this committee has now been put in place and it consists of:

Ms Deirdre Anderson, Director of Nursing, Cathedral Parish
Mrs Angela Butler, President of the MU, New Lambton Parish
The Reverend Jenny Willsher
The Reverend Robert Winder
Mr Robert Caddies, partner in Solicitors, Cathedral Parish
Mr Trevor Waring, Psychologist, Hunter Area Health Board, Cathedral Parish
Mr Ron Deas, former Manager of Australia Post, Belmont North Parish

The committee's tasks are

- to consider the procedures and to establish them within the diocese,
- to train contact people from every area deanery so that they will be competent in the initial handling of any complaints that may arise,
- an education program for clergy and laity across the diocese,
- the provision of publicity and the setting apart of a Sunday next year to consider the integrity of relationships.

One of the most important aspects of the Guidelines is to have contact people appointed from every area deanery, two preferably, who could be either clerical or lay, who have the general trust of the people in the region and who are reasonably high profile. These contact people will be trained so that if someone wishes to make a complaint, these people would be available to either help the person in tackling the complaint themselves or explain the guidelines as we have set them in place.

I shall be deeply grateful if you would give this matter your urgent attention and please send the names in to me by the end of September so that the Monitoring Committee could bring them together for an initial training program.

I hope to call a conference of clergy early next year to respond to the new guidelines and to study the various ethical details in terms of both church life but also in the particular areas that we service in the community, eg hospitals, schools, prisons and welfare groupings.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

PP BA