

Mrs Jean Sanders

4 September 2003

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Dear Jean

Greetings and Peace.

I am in receipt of your email to Katrina on 1 September concerning CASM and it's future. I am rather surprised by its contents and I have had an occasion of speaking briefly with the Diocesan Manager.

My understanding is that whenever there is a case before CASM or any other entity in the Diocese which is of a criminal nature, particularly concerning a minor that that matter needs to be reported to the police by both the entities involved as well as by the person who holds the responsibility within the Diocese for police checks etc which at this point of time with the Diocesan Council's resolution is the Diocesan Manager.

The Diocesan Manager is also responsible for co-ordinating training events for those who hold authority within the Diocese to be involved with ministry with children. I do not see the Diocesan Manager's role as inclusive of documentation, pastoral care etc, but as a statutory function.

My own understanding concerning the General Synod legislation is that our present structures remain in force until such time as the General Synod determines otherwise. It would seem to me if the General Synod legislation is passed it would be necessary for our Synod to pass this legislation. In February 2004, the special Synod will have before it only the draft legislation. It would be appropriate for the members of CASM together with the contact structures to remain in place until we are clear whether we are to go ahead with the Diocesan scheme or whether, as has been proposed we look at a Provincial way of dealing with the professional standards committee etc.

It is premature to inform anybody including the clergy or Phillip Gerber or Garth Blake regarding the closure of CASM and its protocols.

It would be helpful for the Diocesan Manager, you and I to meet to determine the actual status of the process concerning people who have a degree of criminality attached in a case that is brought before us and to consider his role at the present and in any future role he may have once the new legislation comes into effect.

In all matters concerning harassment it would appear to me that CASM continues to hold the central authority lines inclusive of documentation, process and pastoral care and that in such an instance the Diocesan Manager is only involved if there is a

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necessity for the insurance companies to be informed of a likely claim being made upon them.

I trust this puts things into perspective, I do hope that we will be able to meet prior to the matters progressing any further.

With every blessing, good wishes and prayers.

Yours sincerely

**The Right Reverend Roger Herft
Bishop of Newcastle**

cc Bruce Hockman