



The Anglican Church of Australia

GENERAL SYNOD

30 June, 1999

Mr PW Mitchell
Registrar, Diocese of Newcastle
PO Box 817
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300



Dear Peter,

I am not sure which Working Group you had in mind in your letter of 31 May. The Bishops' Conference set up a group to review the diocesan protocols on sexual misconduct. That group was made up of :

Archbishop Goodhew
Bishop Bowden

However the General Synod Clergy Discipline Working Group which comes under the auspices of the Standing Committee, which I suppose was the group which you have in mind. A list of the members this Working Group is enclosed for your information.

As to whether there is any move to look at this matter provincially or nationally, I can say that the Bishops' Conference when they reviewed the comparison decided that it was too difficult to do something nationally. This was partly because of the different jurisdictional questions that applied in different states. My own view is that this question will not go away and that while the question of different state jurisdictions may be an obstacle for a national review, it is not the greatest obstacle. The greatest obstacle is the different experience and different concerns of the dioceses.

My own personal view is that because it is a question that will not go away and because there are similarities within states, then it is appropriate to take the question further provincially.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

The Reverend Dr B.N. Kaye,
GENERAL SECRETARY.

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