

**A statement from the Bishop of Tasmania
to the Parish Council of the Parish of Burnie**

In November 1994 the Venerable Lou Daniels suddenly resigned from the Parish of Burnie and all positions of responsibility within the Anglican Church. This resignation came as a shock to many of you.

It is apparent that the grief arising from his departure is still affecting many in the parish and that there is still speculation as to the cause of his resignation. I believe that it is now appropriate for me to address this.

Shortly prior to his resignation I received an allegation that Lou Daniels had behaved in a sexually inappropriate manner with a young man. Bishop Stone raised this matter with him and he chose to resign. The allegations were investigated by the police. I did not disclose these matters at the time because I was advised that such disclosure might prejudice the investigations.

In recent years there have been a number of allegations that Anglican Clergy and Lay Leaders have acted in a sexually inappropriate manner with boys and girls in their care. No allegation has been made against any serving member of the clergy.

The Church recognises that it has a moral responsibility to provide appropriate care for people affected by such behaviour. To this end I have this morning announced an Independent Pastoral Inquiry Into Sexual Misconduct within the Anglican Church of Tasmania. It is my hope that this will enable people to tell their story and enable the church to enhance its way of responding to such terrible events.

It is my hope that this will enable the people of the Parish of Burnie to move on. If there are stories to be told of sexual misconduct against children in the parish we want to hear those stories and respond to them.

Part of the Church's response to such matters is found in the two documents "A Code of Ethics for Clergy" and "The Procedures of the Sexual Harassment Response Group." A Select Committee of Synod is exploring the significant questions relating to clergy appointment, suspension and termination in time for the next session of Synod.