



## The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

The Right Reverend Gregory Thompson  
Bishop of Newcastle

9 March 2015

Mr Keith Allen

REDACTED

Dear Keith,

This follows our meeting on the 18 February 2015 which was initiated by you to advise me on Diocesan preparation for the Royal Commission. I asked you in our meeting to write to me with this advice.

As one of the few continuing serving members of the Diocese from that period you are in a good position to assist me to understand the way professional standards matters were handled prior to the establishment of the Professional Standards Ordinance in 2005. You outlined to me a small number of church officials who would meet to advise the Bishop on managing misconduct in the Diocese. You referred to these as the sealed brown envelopes that were held in the Bishop's office.

I understand from our conversation that you may have records and notes of your assistance to various bishops that would be of great assistance. You had said to me at the recent General Synod in June 2014 in Adelaide that you had more files on matters of our Diocese which were not in Diocesan files and matters of which I am not aware. In our meeting you then advised that all relevant professional standards files that you held concerning our Diocese had been conveyed to the Diocesan office.

I have been advised from my office that while you have met and passed onto Bishop Peter and Mr John Cleary verbal anecdotal material they and the Professional Standards Office have not received any documents or files from you.

Would you kindly assist me in making available to the Director of Professional Standards your records of ministry misconduct in order that we may prepare for the Royal Commission?

I would ask you to meet with the Director and myself to discuss previous processes that were in place and make notes for my understanding of the practices of previous eras of responding to reports of misconduct?

In the light of the Royal Commission it is important that the Diocese have a comprehensive understanding of its conduct during this period. Your contribution in this was would be of great assistance to the Diocese.

Yours sincerely

*+ GREGORY T*

**Bishop Greg Thompson  
BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE**

Diocesan Office: Bishop Housden Hall  
Level 3, 134 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300 Australia  
Postal Address: PO Box 817, Newcastle 2300

Phone: (02) 4926 3733  
Facsimile: (02) 4926 1968  
Email: bishopgreg@newcastleanglican.org.au