



## **A STATEMENT FROM THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE**

### **Reverend Parker Acquitted of Charges**

The Bishop of Newcastle, The Right Reverend Roger Herft confirms that the Reverend George Parker, is currently a priest serving in the Diocese of Ballarat. Reverend Parker worked in the Diocese of Newcastle from 1964 until 1996, prior to his appointment to the Diocese of Ballarat.

Reverend Parker was acquitted of all charges before the court today.

"The judicial system has done its task. We need to respect the decision, and it is important that we now allow the process of healing to take place," said Bishop Roger.

"I would ask the people of the Diocese Newcastle pray for Reverend Parker as he travels through this difficult stage of his life. We should also ask for prayers for his accuser," said Bishop Roger.

Since 1994 the Anglican Church in Australia, including the Diocese of Newcastle, has endorsed, implemented and policed a wide range of initiatives designed to protect all who come into contact with the church and its staff.

The Diocese of Newcastle now requires rigorous psychological and physiological profiling designed to ensure that those seeking ordination are suitable for the positions they will hold. This is an independent and scientific screening process designed to protect both the wider community and the clergy.

The Diocese, through its Monitoring Committee, offers Principles and Procedures which respond, in a fair and open way, to allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment or abuse brought to our attention.

This Monitoring Committee provides support and education for clergy and lay assistants in their ministry with people.

The Diocese of Newcastle affirms a persons' right to pursue this matter within the Criminal Justice framework of the land.

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**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE**