



# **SURVIVOR APOLOGY MEETING FACTS SHEET**

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Annexure "G" to the Statement of Bishop  
Gregory Edwin Thompson dated June  
2016.

## Survivor Apology Meeting Facts Sheet

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle offers a service to survivors of abuse within the Church whereby they can meet personally with the current Bishop. The purpose of the meeting is;

- To attend a personal meeting with the current head of the Diocese.
- For the individual/s to have the opportunity to express any important issues they would like to, in relation to their experiences.
- For a personal apology to be extended by the Bishop to the survivor for the abuse they suffered.

Some people feel such a meeting would not be helpful to them in any way and do not pursue it. For others, it is a very significant and meaningful gesture of the Church taking responsibility for abuse suffered and offering support.

This gesture in itself can help develop a healthier perspective on the many complex issues that from time to time may overwhelm a person and their families who have suffered from abuse.

### ***So what can you expect at such a meeting;***

- You will be treated with respect, dignity and compassion.
- The meeting will be conducted in a supportive context with every effort being made to avoid retraumatising (that's doesn't mean the meeting may not be emotional and confronting to some).
- You will not be required to relive your abuse experiences or provide supporting evidence of them.

### ***In order for these meetings to go well there are a few things you can do;***

1. Have a good support person attend with you. The best support persons are people such as your spouse, a family member, close friend or counsellor. If you do not have an available support person we can arrange one for you or you may wish to have the Director of Professional Standards attend.
2. Ensure you will receive support once you leave the meeting (a session with your counsellor, family and friends etc).
3. Be respectful to the persons you may engage with around the meeting (eg; Diocesan Staff, Bishop)

It is important to remember that although the Diocese offers a Pastoral Care and Assistance Scheme that includes a component of financial redress to survivors of abuse, the apology meeting is not the place for discussions around this.

We acknowledge that in most cases, no amount of money can compensate adequately for abuse suffered by an individual.

In order for the meeting to remain focused and a person to get the best possible outcomes from the meeting these discussions are best left for another forum, which is certainly available.

The Diocese has put in place a highly qualified independent panel to assist in determination of monetary claims and these matters are independent from the apology meeting. For this reason, if you bring your legal representative as your support person they will be asked to be silent and not participate in the meeting.

If you would like to arrange an apology meeting, please contact the Bishop's Personal Assistant via the Diocesan Office on (02) 4926 3733.

### **For more information contact:**

#### ***Director of Professional Standards***

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#### ***Reporting allegations of abuse***

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