



## The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

The Right Reverend Gregory Thompson  
Bishop of Newcastle

2 November 2015

Ms Anne Hywood  
General Secretary  
Anglican Church of Australia  
General Synod Office  
Email [generalsecretary@anglican.org.au](mailto:generalsecretary@anglican.org.au)

Dear Anne,

Please find enclosed a copy of a confidential report prepared for me by the Director of Professional Standards for the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle Mr. Michael Elliott. The report relates to the National Register and various aspects of the register.

After reviewing the report I feel I am now in a much better position to appreciate some of the very complex and challenging issues that relate to the National Register. I am supportive of the register, and whilst acknowledging some of the technical issues and limitations, I believe it is an essential screening tool for the National Anglican Church that will continue to strengthen over time and help protect the vulnerable.

I wished to share with you a copy of Mr. Elliott's report in support of my formal advice to you that unfortunately, the Diocese of Newcastle, have been unable to comply with the full requirements of the National Register Canon prior to July 2015 due to ongoing technical issues around access to the National Register. These technical difficulties will no doubt be reflected within the data logs and communications of the National Register Officer if verification is required. I am very pleased that the issues with the register are now reportedly resolved and our Diocese have been now able to meet the requirements of the National Register Canon.

You will note that Mr. Elliott concludes his report with a number of recommendations that are based on the establishment of a 'National Screening Working Group' in consultation with your office and the Professional Standards Commission. I support this endeavour and he will no doubt be in touch with your office regarding this in due course. I thank you for your work with the National Register and look forward to the register serving our diocese and the National Church into the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Bishop Greg Thompson**  
**BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE**