

Sept 11
Letter to Cathedral 2012

11 September 2012

The Cathedral

Dear People of God,

You will know that acting upon the recommendation made to me by the Professional Standards Board of the Diocese and with the clearance given by the Supreme Court of New South Wales I have decided to implement the recommendation from the Professional Standards Board that Graeme Lawrence and Bruce Hoare be deposed from holy orders and Greg Goyette be prohibited from ministry.

I am deeply conscious of the distress that the complainant has endured throughout this protracted matter. I have met with him to apologize on behalf of the Anglican Church of Australia and to listen to him and his family.

I spoke with Graeme and Bruce to give them my decision. All of this has been stressful for all concerned. And I am aware too of the stress that parishioners have endured, especially those folk who hold Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare and Greg Goyette in high esteem.

The recommendation from the Professional Standards Board is not punitive; it is protective. The Church has to give assurance to the community that people who come to the church for care and discipleship will not suffer abuse from the clergy or the lay leaders of the Anglican Church.

The good that each of them has done is not discounted by his action nor does that good erase the significant breach of trust in a pastoral relationship that just must not ever happen.

I realize that my decision will receive a variety of responses. I simply state that I have taken the decisions I have for the greatest possible good.

I am asking you to hold all concerned in your prayers and I too ask for your prayers for me in my ministry.

Grace and peace,

+ Brian Newcastle

**Dr Brian Farran,
Bishop of Newcastle.**

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