



DR BRIAN FARRAN
Bishop of Newcastle

6 July 2009

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall
Primate
GPO Box 421
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Phillip

Thank you for bringing to my attention comments made by the research team regarding an apparent over-representation of child sexual abuse statistics at the St. John's Theological College, Morpeth at the request of the General Synod Standing Committee.

I have met with my Professional Standards Director, Michael Elliott, to discuss the matter and have provided him with a copy of your letter. Michael had already commenced enquiries along the lines recommended by the research team. He has secured a large volume of records from the college for review and will make efforts to identify and profile perpetrators of abuse that appear in the study. Michael is also liaising with Police from Strike Force Georgiana, a local Police resource set up to investigate current and historical sexual abuse by clergy and Church workers across all denominations in the Newcastle area.

I will endeavour to keep you informed of any significant developments as appropriate.

Grace and peace,

Dr Brian Farran
Bishop of Newcastle

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