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Archbishop comments on Elliott sentencing

"John Elliott has been sentenced for successive crimes against children," Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr Phillip Aspinall said today.

"His crimes are intolerable. They breached trust, injured children and scarred the lives of the abused and their families. That they occurred within Anglican churches and institutions is a source of great shame and regret.

"I understand the abuses occurred prior to Elliott being ordained as a priest and that there are no complaints in relation to his work following ordination.

"To the victims of this abuse, I apologise unreservedly and offer whatever support I am able to give and they seek to receive.

"I will ensure the court documents regarding this case are properly perused. If questions arise over the diocese's handling of these abuse allegations - either in the court documents or matters which are raised separately - I will refer the matter to the inquiry.

"What I can state immediately is my view that people who offend in this way are not fit and proper people to function as priests or to hold positions of responsibility for children.

"I will not permit such people to continue in such roles.

"Knowing what we now do about the propensity for such offenders to re-offend, it is not my intention to permit people convicted of such crimes to continue, or to return to, ministry as priests or to have care of children in the church."

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