



ANGLICAN MEDIA TASMANIA

Media Officer: Rev. Stephen Carnaby

Tel: REDACTED

Email: REDACTED

PO Box 405, Sandy Bay, 7006

Monday 28th July 2003

MEDIA RELEASE:

Church Stands By Its Inquiry

The Anglican Church in Tasmania has responded to questions concerning its 1997 Inquiry, *Not the Way of Christ*, following the guilty plea today by Dr Michael Crowley to a charge of maintaining a sexual relationship with a girl under the legal age.

Dr Crowley was one of the members of a 1997-98 independent inquiry appointed by the church to investigate possible sexual misconduct within the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania. The findings and recommendations of the inquiry were made public in a report titled *Not the Way of Christ*, released in March 1998. Bishop Newell, the Bishop at that time, appointed Ms Tonia Kohl, as Chair, and Dr Michael Crowley as independent, non-Anglican people to conduct the inquiry.

The five month Inquiry was chaired by Hobart barrister, Tonia Kohl. Ms Kohl, who is not a member of the Anglican Church, has reiterated her belief in the integrity of the findings of the Inquiry. "The Inquiry's independence has never been questioned. Indeed, we clearly made strong recommendations to the church, and specifically commented on the total inappropriateness of relationships between persons in a position of power and minors."

Following the Inquiry's recommendations, the Church has acted on complaints made against clergy, and has legislated to ensure new standards are met by those working with children and young people in the Church.

Bishop Harrower today reiterated his commitment to dealing with past issues of abuse in the Church. "Since I was appointed three years ago, I and the Diocese have made clear that abuse will not be tolerated in the church. We will continue to work towards creating a safe and healthy culture for all people within the church in Tasmania."

Contact:

Media Officer - Rev. Stephen Carnaby

REDACTED