

bishop@woll.catholic.org.au

PWI:mh/815005

23 January 2007

Rev J G Nestor

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIALREDACTED


Dear Fr John

In a letter dated 31 October 2006, I told you that the Diocese was advised that allegations against you are reportable and that, in keeping with the Diocese's obligation under law, an initial notification was made to the NSW Ombudsman's Office.

I further informed you that, under the *Ombudsman Act 1974*, it was now incumbent upon the Diocese to undertake a thorough investigation of the matters raised to determine the facts. I stated that the Diocese would employ the services of an independent assessor for this purpose and I outlined the steps in the investigative process. I now wish to advise you that, after consulting the NSW Ombudsman's Office, I have appointed Kylie Starling and Harriet Stacey of Kamira Stacey Consulting to carry out this investigation on behalf of the Diocese.

I wish to reiterate that when the initial phase is completed and all the relevant information has been obtained, the independent assessor(s) will present the substance of the allegations to you in writing and you will be invited to respond fully, either orally and/or in writing, as fair procedure demands.

Your response may indicate additional lines of inquiry that should be pursued. When any further inquiry is completed, the Diocese will inform you of the preliminary finding of the investigation. At this time you will be given the opportunity for a further response. Your response will be taken into consideration before making a final determination. You will then be advised of the outcome of the investigation and the proceeding will be brought to a conclusion.

The Diocese will provide a final report to the Ombudsman's Office, outlining the findings of the investigation. The nature of these findings will determine whether the Diocese is required to notify the Commission for Children and Young People also.

Throughout the investigation, the Diocese will seek to cooperate fully with the Ombudsman's Office and any other civil authority, as required. The Ombudsman's Office will monitor the investigation from the initial phase to its completion. Should you require further information about the Ombudsman's Office and employment

related proceedings, you may like to access the website (www.ombo.nsw.gov.au) or speak with Sr Moya Hanlen at the Chancery Office.

I state again that the Diocese will make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained throughout the process. To this end, it will seek assurances of confidentiality from all parties concerned and I ask that you, too, maintain this same level of confidentiality. The Diocese will also seek to make certain that there is no intimidation of any person involved, thus preserving your dignity and that of others.

I recognise that this proceeding will not be easy for you and I assure you that I am doing all in my power to have it completed without undue delay. Again, I strongly urge you to have a support person with whom you may speak as you feel the need throughout the proceeding. I also urge you to have this person present with you on any occasion when the investigation is being discussed formally with you. If there is any pastoral support the Diocese is able to offer, please do not hesitate to contact Fr David O'Brien, the Director of Clergy Life and Ministry.

I assure you of the support of my prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Most Rev Peter Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG