

DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG



DIOCESAN CURIA

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PWI:mh/815005

24 July 2007

Rev J G Nestor

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
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 [REDACTED]

Dear Fr John

In a letter dated 23 January 2007, I advised you that, after consulting the NSW Ombudsman's Office, I had appointed Kylie Starling and Harriet Stacey of Kamira Stacey Consulting to carry out, on behalf of the Diocese, the investigation into reportable allegations against you. As I explained earlier, this investigation is incumbent upon the Diocese under the *Ombudsman Act 1974*.

At that time I assured you that the Diocese would be doing all in its power to have the initial stage of the investigation completed without undue delay. The Diocese has endeavoured to do this, however, the investigation is taking longer than anticipated. At this stage, it looks as though it will be completed within the next three months.

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 to date, the Diocese has cooperated fully with the Ombudsman's Office and any other civil authority, as required. The Ombudsman's Office continues to monitor the investigation.

I state again that the Diocese is making every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained throughout the process. To this end, it has sought assurances of confidentiality from all parties concerned and will continue to do so. I ask that you, too, maintain this same level of confidentiality. The Diocese will continue to 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 is not easy for you and I assure you again that I am doing all in my power to have it completed as soon as possible. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Ingham", with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Most Rev Peter Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG