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NON STATE EDUCATION

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**Non-State Schools
Accreditation Board**

Queensland Government

9 October 2009

Bishop William M Morris DD
The Corporation of the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba
PO Box 756
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Dear Bishop Morris

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2009 and for providing the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board ("the Board") with a copy of your *Media Release* dated 30 September 2009.

The Board notes that your *Media Release* included a statement that the Board has completed its investigation. You would be aware that the Board regards this matter as continuing at this time, given that the compliance notice has not yet been fulfilled and the Board is yet to receive a copy of the final Thynne & Macartney investigation report.

Your *Media Release* also indicated that:

- "... the information I have received so far leads me to a conclusion that the school and Toowoomba Catholic Education Office staff involved acted in good faith and there was no deliberate attempt to protect themselves, the school or the offending teacher in responding to the information received about the offending teacher in September 2007."
- "Furthermore, the investigation confirms that the Director did not become aware of this matter until shortly following the offending teacher's arrest."

The Board is concerned that statements such as these may create a perception in the wider community that the conclusions expressed by you in your *Media Release* are shared by the Board. In fact, reports published in the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, 1 October 2009, the *ABC News*, 1 October 2009 and *The Australian*, 2 October 2009 indicate that that is exactly what has happened.

In addition, your *Media Release* states that "both investigations" have "... focused on the handling of this matter by the school and the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office".

This statement, too, does not accurately reflect the investigation that is being undertaken by the Board. The Board has from the outset been examining the role of the school's governing body, as is clear from the Board's original 9 February 2009 letter to you.

The Board requests that you take urgent action in the public domain to rectify these inaccuracies.

Also, the Board again requests a copy of Thynne & Macartney's final investigation report.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor Roy Webb AO
Chairperson

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