

Professional Standards Resource Group

For the Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes
of the Catholic Church
in NSW and the ACT

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1 May 2001

Very Rev Bryan Jones
Administrator of the Diocese of Wollongong
PO Box 1239
Wollongong SCMC NSW 2521

Dear Fr Jones,

I write to confirm the advice provided by the *Resource Group* at its meeting on Friday last, 27th April. That advice is in three parts.

1. After considering the information provided, the *Resource Group* is of the opinion that there is no new information that would persuade it to withdraw the advice it had provided to Bishop Wilson on 29 June 1998.

That advice stated in part:

(i) In light of the available evidence of his continuing and seriously imprudent and ambiguous behaviour, significantly at variance with any reasonable understanding of the obligations of his role, there are serious grounds for concern about Fr Nestor's suitability for pastoral ministry,

(ii) Because of these serious grounds for concern the Bishop is left with little choice but to require reassurance from Fr Nestor that he is in fact a fit and proper person suitable for reappointment, and without such reassurance the Bishop cannot be confident that, were he to make such a reappointment, he would not thereby be placing some members of the community at risk,

(iii) As the means of providing that reassurance, Fr Nestor should be requested, as a *conditio sine qua non* for further appointment, to undergo a full appraisal by Encompass Australasia.

2. After considering the implications of the letter from the Bishop of Peoria seeking a clearance from Wollongong with a view to his offering Fr Nestor an appointment, the *Resource Group* recommends that no clearance be provided for Fr Nestor.

3. The *Resource Group* recommends that the reply to the Bishop of Peoria include wording to the effect that:

As the diocese is in the process of appealing against the Congregation for the Clergy's decree that Fr Nestor be given an appointment, it does not consider it appropriate that it provide any advocacy for Fr Nestor's appointment elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

John Davoren
Director of Professional Standards