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## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

24 December, 2001

*in Australia*

### EXTREMELY CONFIDENTIAL

Pastor Brian Houston  
Hillsong Church  
PO Box 1195  
CASTLE HILL NSW 2154

To all Ordained and Probationary Ministers of the Assemblies of God in Australia

### ISSUE: SEXUAL FAILURE OF MINISTERS

Dear Brian,

Thankfully, only a few leaders fail morally. Sadly it does happen. However it is more heartbreaking when national Christian leaders fail.

REDACTED



### 2. Frank Houston

Several months after taking on the oversight of Sydney Christian Life Centre in 1999 our National President, Pastor Brian Houston received a serious accusation against his father, Frank Houston. The allegation was some thirty years previous and it should be clearly noted this was the first time Brian had received any such allegations against his father.



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Brian suspended his father's credential in line with our policy and immediately contacted the National Executive. Brian offered to allow me as Vice President to oversee an investigation in co-operation with the New Zealand Executive (where Frank was pastoring at the time of these allegations). As a result of these investigations, clear evidence was forthcoming and Frank Houston was permanently removed from all forms of ministry by the Australian National Executive in 2000 and the following statement of prepared for those who made inquiries.

*" The National Executives of the Assemblies of God in Australia and New Zealand have had the very sad responsibility of investigating claims of a serious moral failure against Frank Houston. The incidents that have been investigated happened more than thirty years ago and Frank has admitted to the failure with great remorse. The Australia Executive has no alternative but to remove his credential.*

*Frank has accepted that he can no longer minister and we would request that you not invite him to engage in any public ministry. At the some time, we would encourage you to extend love and care to Frank, his wife and his family".*

We recognise Franks outstanding contribution to the work of the Lord in this nation and that only adds to our heartache.

Obviously both these circumstances have brought great anguish to our National President and I would encourage you to give him your prayer and support. I can assure you that Brian has demonstrated integrity and ensured that truth and justice prevailed in these difficult situations.

We are aware that the above information may be a surprise and shock to some of you and therefore, we have deliberately chosen to restrict this letter to our Ordained and Probationary Ministers. We cannot see any reason for this to be announced to your church or further afield. Sadly there are always one or two people with their own agendas who will try and get mileage from other people's pain.

At times, sad as it may be, we must address such issues. However, our focus must remain on the good things God is doing, the vision he has burned into our hearts, and the fulfilling of the passion of Jesus to reach our communities with the gospel.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor John Lewis  
Vice President – National Executive.