



DR BRIAN FARRAN
Bishop of Newcastle

10 September 2012

Bishop Brian Farran, the Bishop of Newcastle made the following statement today -

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the distress the complainant has endured throughout this protracted matter. I have met with him to apologize on behalf of the Anglican Church of Australia and to listen to him and his family.

The Anglican Church established its professional standards processes to ensure the protection of people who come to the church and to ensure they will not suffer abuse from the clergy or the lay leaders of the Anglican Church. The wider community and the Church places great trust in clergy and lay leaders and expects them to be worthy of that trust.

The Professional Standards Board considered the conduct of four priests and one lay person. I have given prayerful and careful thought to its recommendations.

I do not discount the stress that each of the respondents and members of their parishes have gone through especially the people who hold them in high esteem. The good they have done is not discounted by my action but neither does that good erase the significant breach of trust in a pastoral relationship that just must not ever happen.

The Professional Standards Board in open hearings considered some very disturbing material and determined that some of the respondents engaged in serious sexual misconduct including misconduct when the complainant was a child. The respondents breached pastoral responsibility to a person or people in their care. The Board determined that each of them failed to report the misconduct when they were legally obliged to do so.

In making my decision I have noted that none of the respondents have shown remorse, made reparation or cooperated with the professional standards processes.

I have today deposed from holy orders Andrew Duncan, Bruce Hoare and Graeme Lawrence. I have prohibited Greg Goyette, a lay person from holding any lay office. I have removed Graeme Sturt from being the rector of Cardiff and prohibited him from exercising any ministry for five years. Should he breach this order or be the subject of Board recommendation again in that time he will be deposed from Holy Orders.

The Professional Standards Director has at all times cooperated with NSW Police on behalf of the Diocese and made available to it information held by the Diocese. The NSW Police suspended its investigations last year and has given no indication that any investigation will be resumed.

I now ask for prayers for all concerned. I will not be making any further statements on this matter.