

27 August 2004

Canberra/S11

The Right Reverend George Browning
Diocesan Bishop
PO Box 1981
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Privileged and Confidential

Dear +George

Greetings and Peace.

Please be assured of our prayers for your dear Mother and for the family. Rosemary has informed us of her diagnosis.

I have over the last two weeks tried to make contact with you to discuss a rather delicate matter.

Ian Barrack is a person who sought ordination in the Diocese of Newcastle and was a student at St John's College. The Examining Chaplains determined that he should not proceed and he left the College.

Since then there has been an allegation made against him of sexual abuse with a minor. The Police have informed me of the investigation but I do not believe they have spoken with him regarding this matter.

This is one of those difficult ones. The Police have laid not formal charges yet have advised us of an investigation and have instructed us not to make Mr Barrack aware of this matter until they have an opportunity to speak with him.

I wrote under Privileged communication to all Bishops informing them that should Mr Barrack seek to work in Ministry they should be in touch with me. I have been made to understand that Mr Barrack has moved into the Canberra/Goulburn area. Given that the matter is under investigation, all I seek as a Duty of Care issue is to give you this information for your attention.

I am not sure what else can be done.

With every blessing, good wishes and prayers,

Yours sincerely