

7/18/2016

FW: Professional Standards

From: John Cleary <JohnCleary@newcastleanglican.org.au>
To: johncleary1 <johncleary1@REDACTED>
Subject: FW: Professional Standards
Date: Mon, Aug 13, 2012 2:41 pm

John Cleary Diocesan Business Manager **Anglican Diocese of Newcastle**

PO Box 817 Newcastle NSW 2300 p 02 4926 3733 f 02 4926 1968 m REDACTED
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From: John Cleary
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2012 2:41 PM
To: Bishop Brian
Subject: RE: Professional Standards

Dear Bishop Brian,

I have re-read the 2011 Synod resolution 18.1 (H) (Moved by the Reverend Ian Howarth and Seconded by Mr Cec Shevels) in light of Michael Elliott's email and make the following comments :-

The direction from Synod was "that that this Synod directs the Diocesan Council to fully review the current professional standards ordinance, protocols, processes and report back to the next session of Synod on the review and any recommendations for amendments to the Professional Standards Ordinance"

The operable word, to me, is "fully"

I wonder how a full review can be done without consulting Michael, the President of the Board, other experts and complainant(s) that have been through the process ?

As the Ordinance requires us to be distant from many of the processes and protocols, the Diocesan council members (I wouldn't have thought) are in a strong position to fully review them. There is a danger that the review is borne out of innuendo, media reports, friendships and falsities

Engaging complainants in the process would only empower them. Changing the policy without engaging them would disempower them and run the risk that the diocese receives more Pastoral Care and Assistance Claims.

There is a huge risk that the whole process appears respondent driven (or certainly driven by supporters of respondents). There is then the perception that the policy is being changed because they are not happy with the outcome. Many would argue that the behaviour should change rather than the policy.

I am concerned that we have just had reviews by a Professor of Law and the Supreme Court (and a District court matter dismissed) but there is still no acceptance of the outcomes – are some people "advice or review shopping" ?

In my time with the diocese, Professional standards reviews have tended to occur straight after board decisions (2007,2010 and 2012).

There is a chance of serious reputational risk to the Diocese if the community sees the Church as weakening Professional Standards processes. This may or may not lead to further church decline.

The Diocesan Council, in my view, could reasonably explain to the Synod that its work has been unable to occur for most of the year because the Supreme court outcome didn't occur until very late April. To comply with the synod timetable, this didn't leave the Diocesan council with much time to complete the review.

Perhaps an interim report back to the Synod on what work has been done would be the way forward ?

Tonight is a good starting point but I can't see a full review occurring before Synod

You are in a difficult situation at present

I hope these comments are helpful

Regards
 John

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FW: Professional Standards

From: Bishop Brian
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2012 12:52 PM
To: John Cleary
Subject: FW: Professional Standards

John,

FYI & consideration.

Grace and peace,

+Brian

Dr Brian Farran Diocesan Bishop **Anglican Diocese of Newcastle**

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direct **REDACTED** e-mail bishop@newcastleanglican.org.au web www.newcastleanglican.org.au

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From: Michael Elliott
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2012 12:14 PM
To: Bishop Brian
Cc: John Cleary; Geoffrey Spring
Subject: Professional Standards

Dear Bishop Brian,

I am aware of a special meeting of Diocesan Council tonight to apparently look at amending the current Diocesan Professional Standards Ordinance. I wish to express to you my disappointment that I was not invited to be part of this process. Although I was indirectly advised by the Chair of the PSC who was invited to attend, I hardly consider this proper and appropriate consultation with my office. I note that a working party is to table a report that's origins date back to around 2010. Could you please refer to the attached letter and submission I provided you back in 2010 relating to this issue, most of the points raised in these documents are unfortunately still very relevant.

My advice to you is to not undertake such a process as it is not I do not believe it to be in the best interests of the Diocese or the National Anglican Church.

I request that this email and the attached documents be tabled at tonights meeting and given due consideration.

Kind Regards

Michael Elliott

Director of Professional Standards

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