



TURNBULL HILL LAWYERS

Our Ref: JJW:GEG:100367
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12 August 2010

Mr Michael Elliott
 Professional Standards
 Anglican Diocese of Newcastle
 PO Box 494
 NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Mr Elliott

RE: Reverend Graeme Sturt – Professional Standards Enquiry

As you know we act for the abovementioned Reverend Graeme Sturt whose instructions in response to your correspondence of 11 August 2010 are set out below.

Specific response to allegations

Our client denies each and every one of the allegations set out in your letter. Specifically, he denies that:

- i) There was a "clergy function" in Narrandera in 1984;
- ii) That he attended any function with the nominated persons in 1984;
- iii) That Graeme Lawrence was even in Narrandera after May 1984;
- iv) The whole of the material contained in Clause 1 (b) of the allegation.

As to allegation number two, it is nonsense to suggest that in 1984 our client was guilty of failure to comply with the requirements of a code of conduct which was not promulgated until the year 2005. If by that allegation you intended to convey that our client is accused of having failed under some general duty of law to bring to notice the alleged misconduct of the two people named in the allegation, then that allegation is also denied.

Response generally

We note that in your letter under reply you invoke the provisions of Section 34 of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle Professional Standards Ordinance to require our client to provide his initial response to these allegations by not later than 4 pm on 19



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August 2010. You should regard this letter as a complete response because no further response will be forthcoming.

Having regard to the manner in which the Professional Standards Committee carried out a recent investigation in another matter and the disgraceful aftermath of those proceedings, our client will not be interviewed by Mr Hodgson or anyone else sent on behalf of the Professional Standards Committee which has shown itself to be a completely disreputable body unworthy of the trust which has thus far been reposed in it.

In the context of recent events, there is no basis for any confidence that you have the capacity to undertake an impartial investigation and your suggestion of what would be "highly inappropriate" is frankly offensive. We give you no undertaking whatever that we will not contact Mr ^{CKH} or anyone else if it becomes necessary for us to do so in the interests of obtaining a just and equitable outcome for our client.

Finally, we note that, contrary to our previous directions to you, you have persisted in corresponding directly with our client. In future, please refrain from doing so. Any further correspondence you wish to direct to our client should be directed to this office.

Yours faithfully
TURNBULL HILL LAWYERS



John Woodward
Accredited Specialist (Advocacy)
Partner

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