

18th December 1996

The Most Reverend R. H. Goodhew
 Archbishop of Sydney
 PO Box Q190
 Queen Victoria Building
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Harry,

Firstly, I want to thank you for the time you gave me today to go over the matters I had raised in regard to the **REDACTED** case. I found the meeting to be of value and appreciated your willingness to discuss the issues.

As I am sure you will recall, I raised the question as to what procedure might be followed in respect to allegations of sexual misconduct by a clergyman in the Newcastle diocese. I also told you that the family involved are reluctant to press formal allegations.

Your advice was that I contact the Bishop of Newcastle's office and ask them to forward their Protocols. You also added that unless the family were prepared to make their allegations formal, then very little could be done. However, as I have reflected further on this matter, I believe that this reluctance by the parents should not preclude us from taking any action at all. I believe we must act out of a concern for the children, irrespective of whether parents wish to lay formal charges or not.

My reasons for coming to this view are grounded in what I believe to be good Biblical pastoral principles. For example, if I heard rumours that one of my Sunday School teachers was sexually abusing the children, the first thing I would do would be to call the teacher in and tell them of the allegations, and I would do this even if the allegations were merely hearsay. I would then ask them if there was any truth in the what I had heard. Obviously, from this point onwards, any further action taken would be shaped by the response given by the teacher. But the question must be asked in the first instance.

I believe this to be the Biblical way forward and this principle must surely be applied to any alleged misdemeanour by Christian leaders. In the matter of the Newcastle clergyman, it has been communicated to me by a member of my church that the Reverend Graeme Russell (who I gather is the Dean of Newcastle Cathedral) has engaged in sexual activity with young boys. I would respectfully suggest that, at the very least, Mr Russell should be appraised of these allegations and simply asked the question by yourself (or the Bishop of Newcastle) as to their substance.

I have given a copy of this letter to the person who brought this matter to my attention.

I remain yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. Brian Kelly
 Rector

~~Dave~~
 Your copy of my
 letter to Harry.
 Brian