



# Anglican Church of Australia

**Missionary Diocese of Tasmania**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2003

*From the Bishop of Tasmania  
The Right Reverend John D. Harrower, C.S.M.*

## COPY

Dear Sir

As you know Garth Hawkins recently admitted in court that he had committed crimes against a number of people. As I do not know all your names, and as I did not wish to invade your privacy, I have asked the police to forward this to you.

Words are so inadequate. What can I say to someone like yourself who has been through so much? You have been so courageous to carry this heavy load through all the years. I also thank you for your courage in bringing it to light, because I know the "silent time" and the "speaking out" can both take a very heavy toll.

I would like to apologise on behalf of the Tasmanian Anglican Church for what has happened to you. Any sexual assault is damaging, but when the perpetrator was a priest who was commissioned and trusted to do good, but who instead betrayed and abused that trust, it is especially damaging.

Such behaviour is absolutely contrary to the teachings of Christ. I again make an unreserved apology and I pledge to do all I can to ensure that such things do not happen again.

I would also like to invite you to consider the option of applying for a grant under our Pastoral Support and Assistance Scheme. If you would like to talk to someone about this please contact the office (03) 62238811 and a Support Person will be arranged.

Now that the court case is over, I pray that you may now find some increased measure of peace and healing.

Yours sincerely

John Harrower  
Bishop of Tasmania

C:\Sandra's work folder\Pastoral Assistance\Letter of apology Hawkins victim Dec 03.doc

Postal Address:  
GPO Box 748, Hobart TAS 7001  
1st Floor, Church House  
125 Macquarie Street,  
Hobart TAS 7000

Telephone: 03 6223 8811  
Facsimile: 03 6223 8968  
email: [bishop@anglicantas.org.au](mailto:bishop@anglicantas.org.au)  
Web: [www.anglicantas.org.au](http://www.anglicantas.org.au)