



Facing the past Shaping a healthy future



Media Statement

16 March 2017

Statement from Bishop Peter Stuart

On behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle I express our considerable sadness at the news that Greg Thompson won't be returning to ministry as the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle.

In his short time as our Bishop he has been the catalyst for deep cultural change around the protection of children and the support of victims of abuse. He called us to face our past and in doing so shape a healthy future. This will be his enduring legacy.

As part of shaping a healthy future, we worked together in November to initiate independent external reviews of diocesan governance and the professional standards and redress processes. These reviews are well underway and will continue the crucial work of transforming the Diocese. Bishop Greg has led the Diocese to greater health.

In 2013, the Diocesan family rejoiced that a 'son of the diocese' had been elected as the Diocesan Bishop. The clergy and people have delighted in his ministry in parishes, at the diocesan convention and synod. We have felt deep anguish for him and his family as we learnt of the abuse he experienced and the rejection by some in the Diocese.

Throughout his ministry he has been committed to hearing the voices at the grassroots and empowering the vulnerable and people in need. Drawing on the great treasures in the teachings of Jesus, he has been unafraid of speaking strongly to the powerful to ensure transparency and promote justice.

We are deeply thankful for Bishop Greg Thompson's ministry as Anglican Bishop of Newcastle. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family in this time of transition.

[Ends]

Background information

Bishop Greg has expressed the wish that we do not hold a large diocesan farewell. Members of the diocese and the community who wish to write to him can do so through the Diocese (PO BOX 817 NEWCASTLE 2300).

Bishop Greg formally concludes his ministry on May 31st.

In 2014, the Synod of the Diocese indicated that it wished to change some of the process by which a Bishop is elected. I will be seeking the concurrence of the Diocesan Council to hold a special session of Synod on 20 May 2017 to consider the election process.

Media Advisory

Bishop Stuart will be available for further comment once the Royal Commission hearing into the Anglican Church of Australia (case 52) concludes next week.

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