



Facing the past Shaping a healthy future

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Bishop Thompson announces resignation

Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Greg Thompson today announced he is resigning from his role as Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Thompson served the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle as Bishop for three years and has been a strong advocate for survivors of child abuse during his tenure.

“Since the end of the Royal Commission’s Case Study 42 on the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle I’ve been reflecting on the important work of the Royal Commission and the change underway in the Diocese of Newcastle and its impact on my health,” Bishop Thompson said.

“It has been widely documented in both the media and the Royal Commission how the culture and conduct from some sections of the church has had an impact on survivors, families, and communities across the Diocese of Newcastle.

“I have witnessed this culture first hand, both as victim of abuse and in my work as Bishop to address the Diocese’s abuse legacy.

“When I started this journey to right the wrongs of child abuse in the Diocese I didn’t expect to be in this position, nor did I expect to uncover systemic practices that have enabled the horrendous crimes against children.

“The decision to resign was not an easy one, it weighed heavily on my heart. However, I must place the wellbeing of my family and my health above my job.” Bishop Thompson said.

Bishop Thompson has worked in the church for 38 years and has enjoyed the many exciting roles he has served in during that time.

With the revelations of the appalling accounts of child abuse performed by clergy and church workers during the Royal Commission, Bishop Thompson established the Parish Recovery Teams to work with church communities to address past abuse histories and assist survivors and communities to find a measure of support and recovery.

“I have confidence in the present church leadership of this Diocese who have stood with me in wanting to face the past and shape a healthy future. I could not have done my work without their professional and dedicated support for change,” Bishop Thompson added.



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Bishop Thompson's ministry as the Bishop of Newcastle formally conclude on May 31, 2017.

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