



## *Anglican Diocese of Newcastle*

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**27 August 2014**

#### **Royal Commission/Arinya-2 – Bishop Greg Thompson**

I confirm that The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle has been summoned to provide information to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Diocese pledges to co-operate fully and completely with the Commission's investigations and we have over recent months provided all material relating to allegation of child sexual abuse, including the church's response, to the Royal Commission.

We also heard yesterday that NSW Police have launched a focused investigation called Arinya-2. I have pledged our full support to its work of investigating allegations of child sexual assault and the handling of child sexual assault allegations.

I have been concerned to learn of serious sexual abuse perpetrated by people within the Church against children and vulnerable people, and my first concern is for the victims and survivors to see that they receive the support that they need.

It is clear to me that in the past we did not always handle allegations of abuse in the best way. I am confident that our professional standards processes now create much higher levels of safety for people participating in church activities and enable us to respond promptly when concerns are raised.

The Diocese fully supports the Royal Commission given its serious public responsibility. It is important the federal government and the community find the resources to ensure the stories of abuse are not repeated.

I strongly urge people who have experienced abuse to contact the Police. They may also contact the Diocesan Director of Professional Standards on 1800 774 945 who can arrange counselling or other support.

[Ends]

**Please direct all media enquiries to:**

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