



Facing the past
Shaping a healthy future

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle





Facing the past Shaping a healthy future

On Wednesday June 17, Bishop Greg Thompson spoke openly about the history of abuse within the Anglican Church of this area and the culture that allowed it to happen.

"As the Anglican Bishop, I want to express, in my own right and on behalf of the Anglican Church, profound shame and regret that individuals within the Church harmed people and harmed them again when they came forward to speak of what happened.

"As we face our past, I invite victims and survivors of abuse to tell their story. I urge people who had or have suspicions or knowledge of abuse to also speak up. I encourage people to come forward to the NSW Police and the Royal Commission.

"Underneath my leadership, and assisted by others, there will be no accommodation to cultures that minimise the conduct of perpetrators and diminish victims and survivors of great harm.

"I am confident that the Anglican Church has a vital contribution to our society. I invite people to stand with me in facing our past and join with me in shaping a healthy future."

"To you who have experienced abuse I want you to know as a Diocese we feel shame and profound regret that people within the Church harmed you and harmed you again when you came forward to speak of what had happened."

*– Bishop Greg Thompson
17 June 2015*

TELLING MY STORY

CONTACTING NSW POLICE

The NSW Police are interested in receiving any information about criminal activity associated with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle including sexual abuse or the concealing of sexual abuse.

People with information can call **Crimestoppers** on **1800 333 000**

OR

Make an online anonymous confidential report via the **Crimestoppers website** www1.police.nsw.gov.au/cs.aspx

CONTACTING THE ROYAL COMMISSION

You can contact the Royal Commission by calling **1800 099 340**

OR

Email contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

OR

Write to GPO Box 5283 Sydney NSW 2001

CONTACTING THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

If you would like to speak with the Diocesan Director of Professional Standards you can call **1800 774 945**

OR

Write confidentially to the Director of Professional Standards directly at: *Anglican Diocese of Newcastle PO Box 494 Newcastle NSW, 2300*

OR

Email dps@newcastleanglican.org.au

THINGS WE CAN DO

The laity and clergy of the Diocese are being asked to

- adopt practices that will enable a safe and healthy culture to emerge in the Diocese of Newcastle.
- pray for victims and survivors of abuse as well as pray for the renewal of the church.
- send an email of support to the Bishop
- use the Facing the past: shaping a healthy future logo to show support to victims and survivors of abuse
- use the Facing the past: shaping a healthy future logo to show commitment to shaping a safe and healthy church.

PRAYER WE CAN SAY

The people of the Diocese are invited to pray this prayer:

O Christ, you called your Church to bear your love and grace to the world
but we have failed.
We failed to care for your children and vulnerable ones.
We failed to show compassion and confront evil.
O Christ, we turn to you
in whom the fullness of life is found
we renounce evil;
we claim your love.
We choose to be made whole.
Amen.

SEEKING SUPPORT

Discussing child sexual abuse can be difficult. The Royal Commission has reminded us that is especially so for survivors telling their story for the first time, their families and professional staff supporting them.

The Royal Commission provides an extensive list of care and support services which can be found at Support Services. These services connect people with counsellors or special support groups.

Services marked as "Government Funded" have been funded by the Australian Government to assist people affected by child abuse.

If you need immediate support call Lifeline on 13 11 14

All services listed are provided by organisations external to the Royal Commission and the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle.

For more, visit:

www.newcastleanglicanhealthyfuture.com/seeking-support



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