



THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

MEDIA STATEMENT **Friday 17th May 2013**

**A response to the statement made this day by
The Right Reverend Keith Slater, Bishop of the Diocese of Grafton.**

Under embargo until 4.00pm Friday 17th May 2013

Following the resignation of the Right Reverend Keith Slater as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton today, Archdeacon Greg Ezzy will fulfil the role of Administrator until the appointment of a new Bishop.

On behalf of the interim leadership Archdeacon Ezzy stated today "We regret the serious error of judgment made by Bishop Keith Slater, when he responded to complaints of abuse which occurred at the North Coast Children's Home some decades ago but we commend our Bishop for his honest acknowledgement of mistakes in this regard.

We support the genuine apology he has made to survivors of abuse. We affirm him in his generosity and courage in resigning his Episcopate as an expression of the serious effects that these decisions may have brought about for some of those survivors.

Along with our Bishop we grieve for those who continue to suffer as a result of past abuse.

We acknowledge with sadness that the protocols which the Diocese had put in place to serve the best interests, legally and pastorally, of any survivors of abuse, were not followed and therefore survivors of abuse were not provided with the most appropriate support to facilitate their healing.

We are satisfied that action has been taken to rectify the past mistakes that have been brought to our attention and will act on any others identified in the future. We are committed to ensuring that protocols will always be followed. We are developing a new approach to responding to those who come forward so that they are fully supported in their journey to healing."

END

NOTE: Archdeacon Greg Ezzy will not be making any further comment and will not be available for interviews

Contact

Media Enquiries: Anglican Diocese of Grafton

Mob: 0457 992 400