



13 December 2021

STATEMENT FROM THE MOST REVEREND KAY GOLDSWORTHY AO, Archbishop of Perth

The Episcopal Standards Board of the Anglican Church of Australia has handed down its determination regarding the former Archbishop of Perth and Bishop of Newcastle, Roger Herft, following inquiries into matters raised at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

These matters relate to Roger Herft's time as Bishop of the Diocese of Newcastle and the Diocese's response to survivors of child sexual abuse.

The Board has determined Roger Herft should be deposed from Holy Orders. Full details can be found on the [General Synod Website](#). The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia has made a statement available on the same site.

The Diocese of Perth expresses its deep sorrow and laments the harm caused to children who suffered abuse and whose allegations were not believed or acted upon.

The Board's determination is a strong indication of how seriously the Church takes the issue of child sexual abuse and of our commitment to repentance and renewal.

At this time, those of whom we are most aware are survivors of child sexual abuse, wherever it has taken place, and of the ongoing commitment that we in the Diocese of Perth have to ensuring that the Church is a welcoming and safe community. The Diocese of Perth is committed to living out its responsibilities for safe ministry and responding to allegations of abuse.

The details for the Professional Standards Unit for anyone who has suffered abuse, or has concerns about things they may have witnessed or heard, are Director of Professional Standards, 08 9425 7203 (direct) or 0419 935 889 (mobile), psu@perth.anglican.org or GPO Box W2067, Perth WA 6846.

A prayer for survivors of abuse in the Church

God of healing and hope,
we pray for victims of abuse,
and especially for people whose trust was betrayed
by members or leaders of the Church.
Thank you for the strength and courage of survivors
who have spoken up,
telling their stories and calling for justice.
May their journeys of suffering
be transformed by your grace
into journeys of healing and restoration,
through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.