



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith

24th July, 2025

A statement on the outcome of appeal by former bishop

The Episcopal Standards Review Board has considered the appeal of Keith Slater, the former Bishop of Grafton, who earlier this year was found to be unfit to remain in Holy Orders over his handling of information concerning abuse at the North Coast Children's Home in Lismore, New South Wales. Mr. Slater had appealed the severity of the sanction imposed by the Episcopal Standards Board.

The Review Board considers appeals made by a respondent who is not satisfied with a determination made by The Episcopal Standards Board of the Anglican Church of Australia. The Review Board is an important body to ensure natural justice to the respondent.

The Review Board has confirmed the original decision in relation to the sanction of deposition of Holy Orders imposed on Mr. Slater. This means he will no longer be recognised as an ordained member of the Anglican Church.

The Anglican Church of Australia is committed to the safety of children and vulnerable people in its care and to ensuring that information concerning possible abuse is taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

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