



Anglican Church of Australia

Primate: The Right Reverend Dr Mark Short

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that Dr Peter Hollingworth, former Archbishop of Brisbane and Governor-General died early this morning.

Bishop Hollingworth was deaconed in 1960 and priested in 1961 in the Diocese of Melbourne. Having also trained as a social worker he served in Parish ministry and with the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence before being consecrated as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Melbourne in 1985. He was then elected as Archbishop of Brisbane in 1990, stepping down from that role to become Governor-General in 2001. His ministry was characterised by advocacy for social justice, support for the ordination of women and a concern to sustain the church's presence in marginalised rural and urban areas.

Bishop Hollingworth resigned from Vice-Regal office in 2003 after a Church Board of Inquiry found that, as Archbishop, he failed to act on knowledge of sexual abuse and allowed two clergy to remain in the Church, despite knowing they had sexually assaulted children. The Board of Inquiry also found that Bishop Hollingworth had not handled a complaint from Beth Heinrich regarding the conduct of retired bishop Donald Shearman "fairly, reasonably or appropriately." In 2023 Bishop Hollingworth surrendered his permission to officiate and apologised after the Professional Standards Board of the Diocese of Melbourne found he should be reprimanded.

In reflecting on Bishop Hollingworth's career I am reminded both of God's call to do justice and speak for the vulnerable, and the harm caused when as leaders of God's church we fall short of that calling. I encourage us to pray for Bishop Hollingworth's family and to pray for all survivors of abuse, recognising that in Jesus we have a Lord who holds us to account and a Saviour who is abundant in grace and mercy.

Bishop Mark Short

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Short".

May 19 2026