



**Facing the past
Shaping a healthy future**

**To the community served by the
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle**

Earlier this week I 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 had 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 also to speak up. I encourage people to come forward to the NSW Police and the Royal Commission.

Under 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 make to our society. I invite people to stand with me in facing up to our past and join with me in shaping a healthy future.

Yours sincerely

+Gregory Thompson

Anglican Bishop of Newcastle

www.newcastleanglicanhealthyfuture.com www.newcastleanglican.org.au



Lifeline **131 114** • NSW Police - Crimestoppers **1800 333 000**
Royal Commission **1800 099 340** • Diocesan Professional Standards **1800 774 945**