



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## General Secretariat

Mr Vincent Doyle  
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Dear Mr Doyle,

I write in response to your letter to the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference of 11 August 2019. At the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> inst., the Committee discussed your letter, advice received from the Conference's National Centre for Pastoral Research, advice received from the Congregation for Clergy, and the known extent of children of priests and of priests who have fathered children in Australia. Thank you for the perspective your letter brought to the discussion.

The Committee resolved to further the bishops' consideration on this issue, taking particular note of the advice received from the Congregation for Clergy. I would expect that the issue will receive attention at a plenary meeting of the Conference, though I am unsure as to when this might be scheduled.

I take this opportunity to note the grasp of this complex issue, awareness of cases and quality of pastoral response that was evident in the Permanent Committee's discussion.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Hackett MSC  
General Secretary