



vincent [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

RE: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Fr Brian Lucas <gensec@catholic.org.au>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 3:47 AM

To: vincent [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

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You representations concerning issues arising where clergy have fathered children were considered by the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. I am instructed to reply to you to thank you for your interest in bring your views to our attention. I am able to advise you that the policy of the Bishops in Australia is to treat each situation in an individual manner taking into account all the circumstances, the wishes of the various parties, and with a primary concern for the needs of any such child.

With all good wishes,

Fr Brian Lucas

General Secretary

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

G.P.O Box 368 Canberra ACT 2601

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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

General Secretariat

Mr Vincent Doyle
Director, Coping International Limited

mrvincentdoyle@gmail.com

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 4th 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

Update

Fr Stephen Hackett MSC

28 April 2022 at 22:43

To: Vincent Doyle

Greetings Vincent,

The Bishops Conference has established a Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, which has responsibility for preparing guidelines.

This Commission has undertaken a process of consultation and has now prepared draft guidelines. A process of seeking comment on the draft guidelines has recently commenced. It will have a number of stages and I would expect it to take some months, with the guidelines being progressively refined through the process.

I hope you are well.

Kind regards,

Stephen



STEPHEN HACKETT MSC

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