



THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON DIOCESAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: POLICY ON THE USE OF NAMES OF DISHONoured PERSONS		PROCEDURE REFERENCE NUMBER GEN-003
DATE APPROVED 27 February 2025 by Bishop-in-Council		REVISION NUMBER 2.0
IMPLEMENTATION DATE 27 February 2025	REVIEW DATE AND FREQUENCY 3 Yearly	RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW Bishop-in-Council

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance in instances where there is consideration of removing the name of a person from church property due to the person's dishonour.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Diocese, all Bodies Corporate and other agencies of the Diocese, Parishes and Chaplaincies within the Diocese.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, a reference to the 'Diocese' in this policy includes the relevant Body Corporate or agency, Parish or Chaplaincy of the Diocese covered by this policy and that body is required to act in accordance with this policy. The Diocese may, from time to time, review and update this policy to take account of new developments and circumstances.

3. BACKGROUND

The Church in general has followed the practice of naming organisations, buildings, commemorative plaques, trusts, bursaries, gifts, prizes, scholarships, appointments, and events to honour the service of persons such as bishops, school principals, benefactors and others.

In recognition of the impact of child sexual abuse on survivors and their families, and the pain they have experienced, the Church has a responsibility to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the use of names in these circumstances. In particular, the Anglican Church of Australia recognises that this use of the name of persons who perpetrated child sexual abuse or failed to take action when they were aware of child sexual abuse will cause distress to survivors and their families. Accordingly, the Anglican Church of Australia Royal Commission Working Group developed principles to govern the use of names in such circumstances.

This policy incorporates the principles developed by the Anglican Church of Australia Royal Commission Working Group and expands the context beyond child sexual abuse to include other serious dishonourable behaviour.



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4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1** Where a person is found to have committed serious dishonourable behaviour, the Diocese shall ensure the removal of the name and image of that person from, and shall not use their name or image in connection with, organisations, buildings (or parts of buildings such as rooms, wings and halls), trusts, bursaries, gifts, prizes, scholarships, appointments and events for which the Diocese has responsibility.
- 4.2** In circumstances where the name of a person who is found to have committed serious dishonourable behaviour is included on a commemorative plaque or similar to record officiation or attendance at an historical event (e.g. the opening of a building), the Diocese will not require the removal of the name or the plaque.
- 4.3** In circumstances where the name of a person who is found to have committed serious dishonourable behaviour is included in a historical listing of office bearers, prize recipients or similar (e.g. list of Incumbents since the inception of a parish; list of School Duxes), the Diocese will not require the removal of the name or the display. In such cases, there is to be a review of the prominence of the display and whether any notation (e.g. "Deposed from Holy Orders 2013") should be added to the display.
- 4.4** Notwithstanding the behaviour or failure of such a person, there may be a significant connection in the community with their name. The Diocese will exercise sensitivity in the removal of the name or image of such people and where appropriate ensure that the relevant information is provided to interested persons. Examples of such interested persons are family members and past-students associations.
- 4.5** Where the name of a person who is found to have committed serious dishonourable behaviour is included in a Diocesan Year Book, proceedings of the synod or councils of the Diocese or some other historical record, there will be no action taken to amend or recall such publications. Use of the person's name in future publications and dynamic publications (e.g. web site) will be restricted and will not be in a form intended to bring honour to the person.
- 4.6** This policy will not apply to grave headstones or plaques marking graves or placement of ashes including where such are on property owned or managed by the Diocese.
- 4.7** This policy does not limit the Diocese in taking reasonable action to remove or substitute names or images for any other purpose.



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4.8 The requirement to act in accordance with this policy can be overruled by the Bishop of Grafton in such cases where the Bishop determines that:

- (a) A significant period of time has elapsed since the offence that caused dishonour; and
- (a) The offence did not involve abuse of one or more persons in contradiction of a responsibility to care for that person; and
- (b) The person has since consistently showed behaviour that demonstrates their rejection of the previous adverse behaviour; and
- (c) The person has made reparations where possible; and
- (d) The use or continued use of the person's name in a place of honour would not add to the suffering of any people harmed by the original offence or offences.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 "Serious Dishonourable Behaviour" means where the person is found to have:

- a. Committed child sexual abuse;
- b. Committed sexual abuse;
- c. Committed an indictable offence punishable by a prison sentence of not less than 12 months; or
- d. Failed to take reasonable action when they received information on, or were aware of, instances of sexual abuse including child sexual abuse.

where the offence or failure is confirmed by either:

- (i) a guilty verdict of a Court of an Australian State or Territory; or
- (ii) the finding of a Professional Standards Board of a diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia where the recommendation is removal from holy orders and/or a finding that the person is permanently unfit to hold office or position of responsibility in the Anglican Church of Australia; or
- (iii) a recommendation by the Professional Standards Committee of the Diocese of Grafton in the case where a verdict as per (i) above or a finding as per (ii) above is unavailable due to the person's death or another impediment to a Court's or the Professional Standards Board's ability to consider the matter; or
- (iv) an adverse finding of another authority which, in the opinion of the Bishop of Grafton following consultation with Bishop-in-Council, is equivalent in seriousness as those above.



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5.2 “Body Corporate” means an organisation incorporated by the Anglican Diocese of Grafton under the Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938 (NSW) which currently includes:

Anglicare North Coast
Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School
Emmanuel Anglican College
Clarence Valley Anglican School
Bishop Druitt College
St Columba Anglican School
St Columba Anglican School Foundation St
Cuthbert’s Retirement Living Complexes
Lismore Parish Centre Pre-School

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Diocese of Grafton Professional Standards Ordinance 2004

Principles for the use of names of persons who perpetrated, or failed to take action in relation to, child sexual abuse – Anglican Church of Australia Royal Commission Working Group 20 August 2016 – approved by Resolution SC2016/2/27 of Standing Committee, November 2016