



Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Media release in response to questions: 28 February 2017

The Parish Priest of Tumut was removed following an investigation into complaints regarding inappropriate behaviour towards children. One of the complaints was notified to the NSW police however after consultation the matter was dealt with internally, with oversight from the NSW Ombudsman's office.

Following the investigation the priest was removed from his position as Parish Priest. Meetings were held with parishioners in the Tumut parish who were advised of the reasons for this clergy member's move.

As there was no other accommodation available, this clergy member was initially provided with accommodation at Lanigan House, however due to a significant deterioration of his health he has remained at Lanigan House where his medical needs can be met.

Prior to me making the decision to move this clergy member to Lanigan House, a thorough risk assessment was conducted by staff within the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding and the Principal at the nearby Catholic school consulted.

Let me assure the Canberra community, this retired priest has no contact with the children of either of the nearby schools and no children are permitted to visit Lanigan House.

I do acknowledge the concerns of this community and in moving forward, I am seeking alternative accommodation which addresses the community concerns and meets the medical needs of this retired priest.

Most Reverend Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

For all media enquiries please contact Aoife Connors 0450 348 597



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