



THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

The Right Reverend Dr. Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

12 November 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write in response to requests that I have received from clergy and lay people in the diocese who have read media releases from other dioceses and who would understandably like a clarification of our own position in the Grafton Diocese regarding the religious freedom debate and gender issues in Anglican Schools.

Having consulted with the Heads of our five Anglican Schools in Grafton Diocese I can state that our schools welcome children and staff of any gender or sexual orientation. We affirm the infinite worth and human dignity of every person, having been created in God's image and likeness.

This is consistent with our diocesan values and also is in accordance with the Anglican Diocese of Grafton Schools Ethos statement which states in part that we *affirm the dignity and worth of all people, aspiring to be inclusive, open and responsive to diverse needs and abilities* and that we foster *compassionate and respectful relationships within a safe, disciplined, caring Christian learning community*. In these and in other ways our Anglican schools provide an environment that nurtures the whole person as a sound foundation for life.

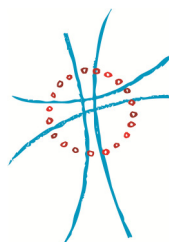
The full statement is available here:

<http://180.235.131.20/~anglicandiocese/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Anglican-Schools-Grafton-Diocese-Ethos-Statement-1.pdf>

In this diocese we are greatly blessed through the ongoing work of our five schools. I thank them for the education and care that they provide.

Yours in Christ

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton



The Anglican Church of Australia