



# DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

## BISHOP'S OFFICE

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## Media Statement

FROM BISHOP BILL WRIGHT

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

After careful consideration and discussion with my priests and senior staff, I am pleased to announce that within the coming weeks I plan to take up residency in the Old Bishop's House in Maitland.

My intention to live in Maitland brings with it a number of opportunities for me as Bishop. My thinking about moving was prompted by seeing the historic St John's Chapel, closed and in need of repair. Living in the Old Bishop's House next door might mean I could offer on the spot help as needed.

Equally important is my commitment to ensuring that as Bishop of such a large geographical area, I can connect with a larger cross section of people by still working in Newcastle but living in Maitland.

Currently I am living alone in a large home in the inner suburbs of Newcastle, a magnificent city with a community that has welcomed and embraced me since my appointment as Bishop. However I feel it is more practical for me to move from a house surplus to my needs to the vacant Bishop's Quarters within the Old Bishop's House in Maitland.

This decision to move has not been taken for financial reasons and the future use of my current home in Newcastle is uncertain.

The Chisholm Region is part of a rapidly growing area with a number of active pastoral, youth and regional teams operating to further our mission as Church. This move will allow me to work more closely with this diverse and rapidly developing area, while living near the banks of the Hunter River.

When first considering the move to Old Bishop's House, I was not aware of its blemished past which affected individuals, families and the wider diocesan community. I have now communicated with the people I know of who may be affected by any move, to advise them of my intentions.

I must stress that the diocesan offices will not be affected by my move and I will continue to travel to Newcastle during the week.

I look forward to what the future holds for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and working with the whole diocesan community towards our vision: 'To hear God's people and to empower them to participate fully in Christ's mission.'

Bishop Bill Wright,  
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

For all media enquiries please contact Communications Manager for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Emma Blackford on 0419 263 901