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## News - Local - General News

### 'Betrayed' by leak

By Nick Redmond

Tuesday, 14 September 2004

NATIONAL Party candidate for Calare Robert Griffith has accused a member of a church of breaching a trust by leaking an email to the media.

Mr Griffith said yesterday he felt betrayed by the leak.

Mr Griffith, a Baptist Minister in Orange, wrote the email as part of a series of Calare election updates.

The details of the email, which was sent to churches in Orange and Bathurst, were aired on Prime Television on Friday night.

It has also been forwarded to the Central Western Daily.

The email, under the heading "Secret Weapon from God", outlines a plan for the Plymouth Brethren to help with the Mr Griffith's campaign.

"The Plymouth Brethren have been convicted by God to get more involved on the political front," the email said.

It also said that as a result of meetings and prayer the Plymouth Brethren "have now given a commitment to support my campaign in a HUGE way".

"We are talking about a huge amount of money and personnel," it said.

The email also said the Plymouth Brethren pledge had been raised with Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson.

"John Anderson said this was the most amazing news he had ever heard and that this was the miracle he had been praying for in Calare," it said.

Mr Griffith conceded yesterday the Plymouth Brethren were not involved as a church but a number of individuals within that church had offered support.

The email asked that the details of the plan remain confidential.

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Mr Griffith said yesterday confidentiality was asked for not to hide the details but to respect the privacy of the Plymouth Brethren.

The Reverend Canon Frank Hetherington of Holy Trinity said yesterday he had been receiving emails from Mr Griffith for sometime but had not opened them until the Prime News bulletin raised the issue last Friday.

He said one inference that could be taken from the emails was that a Mr Griffith was claiming "exclusive access" to God.

"Peter Andren, the Greens and everybody have the same capacity," he said.

Mr Griffith described the leaking of the email as a "betrayal".

"That's what it is. It was a private email," he said.

In a subsequent email, also forwarded to the Central Western Daily, Mr Griffith questioned the motives behind the leak.

"It's an embarrassment to the whole Christian Community that someone who calls themselves a brother or sister in the Lord would operate at such a level of deception and betrayal. The whole Body of Christ in this city was embarrassed [by the Prime coverage] and one [of] its own members was responsible," the email said. Mr Griffith described the Prime coverage of the leak as a "hatchet job".

The email said there would be no further Calare updates.

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