



COIN

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY NOW

Justice for victims of Catholic Clergy Sexual Assault in Victoria

The Hon Georgie Crozier MLC,
Chairman, Family and Community Development
Committee, Parliament of Victoria, Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

19th September 2012

Dear Ms Crozier,

**Inquiry into Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations –
COIN Submission no 16:
*Not reinventing the wheel: Crime prevention Committee first report:
Combating Child Sexual Assault (May 1995)***

In this submission, COIN refers the Committee to the above 'Inquiry into Sexual Offences Against Children and Adults', chaired by the current Speaker of the House the Hon Ken Smith MP. The Report may be accessed at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/dcpc/inquiries/article/315.

COIN refers the Committee particularly to the Report's discussion of religious organisations (Ch 11.5) including material concerning the Catholic Church. COIN refers particularly to the following recommendations:

126: *'that protocols be developed within religious organisations to ensure that authorities such as SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) were immediately notified of any suspected sexual assaults'*.

130: *'religious institutions develop protocols to ensure that evidence is not tainted by internal investigations or inquiries'*.

COIN understands that in addition to valuable analysis and recommendations contained in this Report, now 17 years old, that the Catholic Church provided documents to the Committee of Inquiry and that such documents have been archived by the relevant parliamentary authorities. COIN recommends that the Committee consult with the Hon Ken Smith on these matters and that the Committee seek to access and review those documents for the purposes of the current Inquiry.

COIN requests that this submission be placed on the Committee's public records.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Bryan Keon-Cohen AM QC
President, COIN

Ms Viviane Gautschi
Secretary, COIN

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