

TO

F. & C. D. C.

NOTES RE: THE ATTACHED

- * THESE SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE APPROX. LATE '62/'63 AT AGE 13/14.
- * OCCURRED BY SCOUTMASTER WITHST A MEMBER OF [REDACTED] SCOUT TROOP IN VICTORIA
- * OCCURRED 3/4 TIMES UNTIL I HAD THE COURAGE/MATURITY TO WALK AWAY
- * MEMORY RETENTION POOR - LOST A CAREER WITH NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE DUE TO THIS VERY THING.

Impact of Crime

PHYSICAL	THINKING	EMOTIONAL	BEHAVIOURAL	SOCIAL	OCCUPATIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nausea ❖ Upset stomach ❖ Tremors (lips, hands) ❖ Feeling uncoordinated ❖ Profuse sweating ❖ Chills ❖ Diarrhoea ❖ Dizziness ❖ Chest pain ❖ Rapid heart beat ❖ Rapid breathing ❖ Increased blood pressure ❖ Muscle aches ❖ Sleep disturbances ❖ Headaches ❖ Constant tiredness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Slowed thinking ❖ Difficult making decisions ❖ Difficulty solving problems ❖ Confusion ❖ Disorientation of time and place ❖ Difficulty calculating ❖ Memory problems ❖ Difficulty naming common objects or familiar people ❖ Seeing the event over and over ❖ Distressing dreams ❖ Poor attention span 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Anxiety ❖ Fear ❖ Guilt ❖ Grief ❖ Depression ❖ Sadness ❖ Feeling lost ❖ Feeling abandoned ❖ Feeling isolated ❖ Worry about others ❖ Wanting to hide ❖ Wanting to limit contact with others ❖ Anger ❖ Irritability ❖ Feeling numb ❖ Feeling startled ❖ Shocked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Change in activity ❖ Change in speech patterns ❖ Withdrawal ❖ Emotional outbursts ❖ Suspiciousness ❖ Change in usual communications ❖ Loss/increase of appetite ❖ Alcohol consumption ❖ Inability to rest ❖ Hyper-alert environment ❖ Startle reflex ❖ Pacing ❖ Changes in sexual functioning ❖ Apathy ❖ Restlessness ❖ Avoiding TV/newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Increase in arguments with family/friends ❖ Feelings of estrangement from family/friends ❖ Loss of sexual interest & pleasure ❖ Decrease in number of social activities ❖ Increased need for support from any other also involved in or soon after the incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Not able to perform duties to usual standards ❖ Needing to check & double check work done ❖ Increase in number of arguments

The Committee is seeking information from victims relating to:
The causes and effects of criminal abuse within religious and other non-government organisations.

10 Reporting the abuse

10.1 Could you tell anyone about what happened?

No, not for many, many years.

10.2 Did you feel discouraged from reporting the abuse?

I felt scared, embarrassed, I was able to distance myself from the events it was as if I could wipe it from my memory

10.3 Who did you tell about what happened?

I first spoke to my wife

10.4 How long after the abuse occurred did you tell someone?

15 years.

10.5 Did you tell the religious body or other organisation about the abuse?

No.

10.6 If you delayed in telling or reporting what prevented you from disclosing earlier?

Embarrassment because I didn't have the maturity to stop it.

Response to the disclosure

10.7 What was the initial response from the organisation?

10.8 Was there was an investigation of the abuse, how was it conducted?

10.9 What meetings or other interactions did you have with the organisation?

10.10 Were you encouraged or supported to report your abuse to the police?

Did you do this? If not, why not?

10.11 What were the consequences for the perpetrators(s)?

10.12 What were the effects of the response to the disclosure on the victim and other individuals? (eg. Family members, other members of the organisation)

Support

10.13 Were you supported by the organisation? If so, how?

10.14 Did you receive counselling or psychological help? If so, who provided it?

10.15 Did you receive an apology or an acknowledgment of the abuse you had suffered?

10.16 How adequate was the support that was offered?

Result

10.17 Did the religious or other organisation accept responsibility for what happened?

10.18 What was the consequence for the perpetrator?

10.19 Were you offered an apology, compensation or other forms of assistance?

10.20 As a result of your complaint to the religious or other organisation what actions were taken by them?

10.21 How long did it take to achieve a result?

10.22 Were you satisfied with the process in dealing with the complaint and/or the result?

10.23 What was your view of the effectiveness and adequacy of any compensation, either offered or received?

10.24 What were the effects of the result on you and other individuals? (eg family members and supporters)

11 Responses to reports of child abuse-religious and other organisations
Current policies, protocols and frameworks

11.1 What policies, protocols, frameworks and/or charters are currently in place in Victorian religious and secular non government organisations to address child abuse within those organisations?

I don't know what's in place I have no comment

11.2 What is the nature of the policy?

11.2.2 Is it publicly available? (If so, how)?

11.2.3 Is it time limited?

11.3 Who is responsible for the policy?

11.4 How are the alleged and proven offenders dealt with?

Accountability mechanisms

11.5 What accountability mechanisms apply to the organisation's policy?
Is it open to outside scrutiny or review?

11.5 Is there an appeal process or dispute resolution process for victims or offenders?

Support for Victims

11.6 What supports are available to victims and other family members or significant others?

I guess there is something but I don't know what that is.

11.8 Can victims seek independent support?

I have independent people that I am able to speak with.

11.9 What is the role of the counsellors in religious and other organisations?

To counsel / support victims

Compensation and reparation

11.10 Do systems for addressing abuse within the organisation allow for monetary or other forms of compensation?

No idea

11.11 How is the compensation system/procedure run?

No idea

Is it independent from the operations of the organisations?

No idea

Is it overseen by a panel?

The committee is seeking copies of documents used by religious and other organisations in responding to child abuse.

12 Investigation reports of child abuse

12.1 What processes for internal investigation exist in religious and other organisations?

Unknown

12.2 Have allegations of child abuse been reported to police when the organisation is made aware of them?

I'd say not.

12.3 What processes are in place for reporting cases of alleged child abuse to the police?

I don't know of any processes.

12.4 In what circumstances, if any, would the alleged abuse not be reported?

Cover up.

13 Law and Legal Process
Religious Law and Practice

13.1 In what ways are religious laws and procedures used to address abuse within the organisation?

13.2 Have internal systems of investigation discouraged reporting of criminal acts to the police?

13.3 Have internal systems of redress discouraged or prevented civil legal action being taken by victims?

N/A

13.4 Under what circumstances is it appropriate for religious organisations to apply internal sanctions to offenders, such as expulsion or laicisation (defrocking)?

13.5 Have the legal structures used by religious bodies to manage their affairs and their assets acted to discourage or prevent civil legal action being taken by victims against offenders?

Mandatory Reporting

13.6 Should Mandatory Reporting of cases of alleged criminal abuse be extended to ministers of religion?

Yes.

13.7 To what extent should the reporting of suspicions of abuse be circumscribed by law, customs and ethical codes of religion? (for example, should the sacrament of the Catholic confessional remain sacrosanct in these circumstances?)

Yes.

13.8 What consequences may flow from the extension of Mandatory Reporting to ministers of religion?

Accountability, no excuses, sexual abuse can destroy a persons life.

13.9 What procedures do religious and other organisations have in place to ensure the suitability of employing people in the organisation who work with children?

I'm aware there are screening processes in place

13.10 Are these in addition to those required to be undertaken by state law?

Unsure

13.11 How is the Working with Children Act 2005 applied in the context of ministers of religion?

Unklar

Potential New Laws

13.12 Are new laws required to more effectively address the institutional abuse of children?

Yes

13.13 Should officials in religious and other organisations be held criminally responsible for the actions of offenders of child abuse in their employ or for whom they have responsibility?

Yes however it should include others eg. Board of Management.

14 Responding to Offenders and Alleged Offenders

14.1 Are there formal or informal practices or guidelines for the personnel accused, suspected or convicted of criminal or other abuse?

I hope so.

14.2 How should cases be dealt with when there is suspected abuse but in sufficient evidence?

Investigate, involve police.

14.3 How do religious and other organisations protect victims when alleged offenders have not been charged or convicted of a criminal offence?

Unclear, unsure.

15 Data Privacy and Public Interest

15.1 Does the organisation maintain comprehensive records data on the incidence and prevalence of abuse against children in the organisation?

Yes.

If so are such records publicly available?

I don't think they should be.

Do organisations share information regarding proven or suspected cases of abuse to other agencies even in cases where it is not compelled to do so? (For example schools, DHS?)

Unknown

I think appropriate information should be shared.

What confidentiality/privacy considerations flow from this?

Unknown.

15.2 Do religious organisations inform that laity and other members of the religious or wider community about abuses committed by its members?
Should it do so?

Yes.

15.3 How can the wider community be informed about child abuse/child protection issues or suspicions?

Media

16 Prevention

16.1 Are there education or prevention programs/policies with regard to the abuse of children and other vulnerable people in religious and other organisations?

I don't know if there are but there should be.

16.1.1 What type of program?

1 off or ongoing?

Both, depending on individual needs.

16.1.2 Who is responsible for developing the programs?

All stake holders.

16.1.3 Are these programs internally/externally run or both?

I would hope both.

16.1.4 Who attends the education programs?

Anyone wanting to join an organisation

Is it compulsory?

Yes.

16.2 For organisations responsible for the accreditation of ministers of religion, do the curricula include training regarding sexual and other forms of abuse (for example at seminaries?)

Unknown, but this should occur.

16.3 Have these programs been evaluated?

Should occur.

To what extent have they been successful in addressing or raising awareness of these forms of criminal abuse?

Very little but improving

16.4 Does the organisation's framework or policy have provisions or guidelines for proactively encouraging/facilitating the reporting of criminal (or other) abuse of children by people within the organisation?

Unsure but should.

Are new laws required to more effectively address the institutional abuse of children?

Yes.

17 Relationships with External Bodies and Organisations Victoria Police

17.1 Do any formal/written protocols exist between religious/non government organisations and Victoria police?

Unsure, should be.

17.2 Are Victoria police guidelines and procedures for investigating child abuse consistently applied across religious or other organisations?

Should be.

Are there any guidelines specific to the investigation of ministers of religion?

Unclear, everyone s/be treated the same.

17.3 Does Victoria police have liaison officers that are dedicated to working with religious organisations on cases of criminal abuse and if not should there be?

911
Yes & Yes.

17.4 Do religious and other organisations have any formal protocols within DHS
If not, what form should they take?

Suspect there would be.

Other Organisations

17.5 Are there formal or informal protocols or relationships between religious and other organisations and non government bodies, eg CASA?

Unclear

If not, what form should they take?

17.6 Are there relationships or liaisons between religious and other organisations and victims advocacy groups?

Unknown, but would like to think so.

17.7 Do the organisations network with religious and other organisations to address abuse? (eg. interfaith bodies)?

Unknown but hope so.

I do/do not want to present verbal evidence to the Committee