

Compensation Panel

A Compensation Panel is being established to provide ex gratia compensation to persons complaining of sexual abuse by priests, religious and lay people who are or were under the control of the Archbishop of Melbourne.

To the maximum extent possible, the Panel will operate independently of the Archbishop and the Archdiocese.

The Panel will be Chaired by Mr Alex Chernov QC and will include a psychiatrist and some lay persons.

The establishment of this Panel and the offer to pay compensation is not an admission of legal liability.

The Archbishop, the Archdiocese and the Church do not accept that they have any legal obligation to make payments to people making complaints.

Rather, the Panel will provide people making complaints with an alternative to legal proceedings against the Archbishop or Archdiocese. It is hoped that it will provide an informal rather than legalistic approach and a forum for a fair, just and speedy settlement of claims.

To be eligible for an ex gratia payment, anyone making a complaint will need to establish the factual basis of the claim. In order to thoroughly examine every claim, the Panel will consult and liaise exhaustively with the Independent Commissioner.

Compensation payments, binding on the Archdiocese, will be recommended at the discretion of the Panel, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per person. If the person making a complaint accepts the recommendation, the amount will be paid in full settlement of all legal claims against the Archbishop and



Sexual Abuse

