



Newspaper Articles

Re Healesville

offenders and

H.E.A.R.

PIEST

A FORMER parish priest of Healesville's St Brigid's Church is behind bars and branded "an utter disgrace" after being sentenced in the County Court for child-sex offences.

The court heard that David Daniel used his status and authority as a Catholic priest to sexually abuse a number of children and teenagers over almost two decades.

Young victims Daniel preyed on at the presbytery were among those in court on Friday to watch their attacker jailed.

County Court Judge Mervyn Kimm was scathing in his sentencing, labelling Daniel an "utter disgrace" who had breached his position of care and protection of the juveniles in his care.

He had shown no remorse towards the victims of his deviant crimes, all of whom had been left emotionally damaged by the attacks on them, the judge said.

Daniel's abuse of children spanned from 1978 to December 1994 and the offences could not be considered "stale", the judge said.

His victims included four boys between six to 12, a 17-year-old girl and an adult man

Daniel molested while physically greeting him.

Daniel stood unmoved in the dock during sentencing. Several of his victims later shed tears outside the court.

Daniel, 57, was ordained a priest in 1975 and retired in 1994.

Outside the court, a former altar boy from Healesville, who was too scared to reveal the abuse for several years, said he had been psychologically scarred for life by Daniel.

He said the abuse only stopped because his family moved interstate but he had since returned to the town.

Once a devout Catholic, the man said he would never step into a church again.

Daniel had pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting one of his victims.

But he was convicted by a jury of a further 16 counts including gross indecency, indecent assault and sexual penetration.

Judge Kimm sent Daniel to six years' jail and to serve a minimum of six months.

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Shamed priest gets six years

By KELLY RYAN,
County Court reporter

A CATHOLIC priest whose child sex victims included altar boys was branded "an utter disgrace" before being jailed by a County Court judge yesterday.

Former Father David Daniel had used his status as a priest and his authority over his victims to commit his deviant crimes for more than two decades, Judge Mervyn Kimm said.

And he had shown no remorse for the victims he had emotionally damaged for life.

Daniel threatened to write one of his victims out of his will if the boy told anyone about what had happened.

The priest had formerly promised to leave the boy his car, Judge Kimm said.

Daniel, who left the priesthood in 1994, stood unmoved in the dock as some of his now adult victims wept in court.

Victims included four

boys aged between six and 12, a girl aged 10 and a male, 25, indecently assaulted when Daniel hugged him in greeting.

Daniel had worked in parishes in several suburbs including Newport, East Brighton and Healesville, which was his last posting before he disappeared after police began investigating him.

Daniel had pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting one of his victims. But he was found guilty by a County Court jury of 16 other charges including gross indecency, sexual penetration and indecent acts with a child under the age of 16.

Daniel was sentenced to six years' jail and ordered to serve four years and six months before being eligible for parole.

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Insight into child abuse

A FILM to be shown in Healesville next week will provide a timely introduction to a new group aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse.

Deliver Us From Evil will screen at Healesville Memorial Hall on Saturday, 28, Sunday, 29, and Tuesday, 31 July.

Healesville teacher Pam Krstic has urged members of the community to see the film.

"The film is astounding," she said. "It's about the Los Angeles diocese and Cardinal Mahoney, who settled last week with 500 victims of sexual abuse for an amount of \$660 million."

Ms Krstic was teaching at St Brigid's School in the mid-1990s when the then parish priest, Fr David Daniel, was charged with the sexual abuse of children.

He was subsequently convicted of multiple offences and sentenced to jail.

"Although the film deals with clergy, it gives an insight into the mind of those who prey on children by befriending a family, and these people can be found in all walks of life," Ms Krstic said.

Ms Krstic is behind a program to be launched soon called HEAR (Healesville Education Awareness Raising) which will provide information and advice, particularly on how to recognise healthy and unhealthy relationships between adults and children.

Balloon message to raise abuse awareness

By Kath Gannaway

WHITE balloons sent a message of support to survivors of child sexual abuse in Healesville recently.

Pam Krstic and Ian Lawther Healesville residents behind HEAR (Healesville Education and Awareness Raising), an advocacy group against child sexual abuse, tied the balloons along the main street to draw attention to Child Protection Week.

The balloons have an international symbol of support since they were first used in Belgium in 1996 when 300,000 people gathered with white balloons to show public sympathy and support to parents or children missing or murdered by the then released paedophile Marc Dutroux.

"As a community we need to make a stand and show society that child sexual assault is not acceptable and that we are not going to tolerate it," Ms Krstic said.

She said she and Mr Lawther were encouraged too to receive an email from Nancy Sloan who read the Mail's July stories on HEAR on the internet.

Ms Sloan featured in the documentary *Deliver Us From Evil*.

She said the articles were picked up off the web by Australia's Catholic News and then was picked up by several survivors' watchdog sites around the world. "Nancy must have seen the article on one of those sites and was moved to send us all a message," she said.

Identifying herself as " ...

one of the victim/survivors of (paedophile priest) Oliver O'Grady" Ms Sloan thanked Ms Krstic and Mr Lawther for caring and for "choosing to make a difference ... to safeguard innocent children".

"It is terrific to see we can receive and give support around the world like that," Ms Krstic said.

"I found inspiration from her courage and she, too, finds it in us."

To find out more about HEAR contact Ms Krstic on 0410 859 059 or Ian Lawther on 0427 511 702.

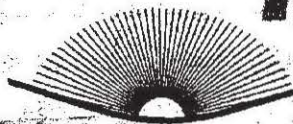
Other organisations promoted as part of Child Protection Week are the Kids Help Line on 1800 551 800 and Centre Against Sexual Assault on 1800 806 292.



Pam Krstic and Ian Lawther are encouraging people to speak out about child sexual abuse.

Advertisement

Tuesday, 30 June, 2009



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Priest sex conviction

By Kath Gannaway

FORMER Healesville priest Paul Pavlou pleaded guilty on Monday to sexual abuse and pornography charges.

The charges against 50-year-old Father Pavlou are related to incidents, which the court heard occurred between 2005 and 2006 during his time as parish priest at St Brigid's in Healesville.

Father Pavlou was sentenced by magistrate Anne Goldsborough to 18 months in prison suspended for 24 months on the first charge of an indecent act with a child under 16, and a community based order and charge of know-

ingly being in possession of child pornography.

As a condition of the CBO Fr Pavlou is required to do a program for sex offenders and 50 hours of community work. He will also be registered on the sex offender's register for 15 years.

A second charge of indecent assault was dropped following discussions between the police prosecutor, Senior Constable Sean Van Geyze, and defence barrister Brian Bourke.

The victim, who cannot be identified, was a teenager when the offences occurred.

Fr Pavlou was arrested on 16 August 07 by Lilydale CIU officers and on the same day police seized a comput-

er hard drive. The court heard there were a large number of video and photographs depicting children under 16 engaged in sexual activity.

"The vast majority of the images depicted young adolescent males," Senior Det Van Geyze said.

In his client's defence, Mr Bourke told the court Fr Pavlou had no prior appearance or conviction through the courts. He said he was a school teacher before joining the Salesians at Don Bosco in Ferntree Gully.

Ten years later he was ordained a Catholic priest and spent 12 months at Croydon before being assigned to Healesville.

He said Fr Pavlou had suffered a

great deal in not being able to celebrate Mass for the public since leaving Healesville.

"This is really a life sentence," he said.

He added that at 50 his client had little prospect of employment in any field for which he was trained.

The victim and his family were present in the court for the magistrate's summing up and sentence.

Magistrate Goldsborough acknowledged Fr Pavlou's guilty plea, which she said avoided the need for the victim to be cross-examined.

"These are charges of the utmost significance not only for you but for the young victim involved," she said.

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Relief as priest sentenced

By Kath Gannaway

ON Monday, 29 June, Healesville mother Jo* sat in the same courtroom as Father Paul Pavlou – the priest convicted of sex abuse charges involving her son.

It was important to her, and to her son who made the brave decision to also be in court for the sentencing, that they see justice done.

After three years of hell, there is no joy in the victory ... she is exhausted, physically and emotionally. There is however relief and vindication.

After denying his guilt for two years, Pavlou pleaded guilty in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court to one charge of committing an indecent act with a child under 16 – her then 14-year-old son – and to knowingly possessing child pornography.

An 18-month jail sentence was suspended for two years, and he was placed on a community based order requiring 50

hours of community work. He will undergo programs aimed at rehabilitation and was also placed on the sex offenders register for 15 years.

"My goal through the whole thing, from day one, was to get him on that sex offenders register so he can't be around children," she falters and taking a deep breath, continues ... "so he can't do this to another family.

"When I saw my son so distressed and under unwanted pressure from the priest, my goal was to get my son away from him. I was determined to take action on behalf of my son.

"Even though the priest didn't get a jail term, I'm glad he is on the sex offenders register and that he has to do rehabilitation programs; I'm glad he will have to admit what he has done and that the pornographic images will be handed to the people who are working with him," Jo says.

Images tendered in evidence were

sealed by Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough with instructions they were only ever to be opened by professionals who may want to use them in the process of rehabilitation of Pavlou.

The offences occurred between 2005 and 2006 when Pavlou was parish priest at St Brigid's Parish and primary school.

In a small community, and in a parish, which is still under the shroud of the conviction in 2000 of Fr David Daniel on multiple child sex offences, allegations against another parish priest were not well received. It took weeks for Jo to find someone who knew how to find assistance from the Catholic Archdiocese.

Jo found herself with few allies and confronting rumours, the most obvious that "she's just after the money".

The Catholic Archdiocese stood Pavlou down from priestly duties, telling parishioners he was "on sick leave". Even after charges were laid there was no noti-

fication to parishioners and parents at the school.

Brought up a Catholic, Jo held the priesthood in high esteem and admits she was blinded to some of the earlier warning signs.

Her son became an altar-server while at St Brigid's and continued to serve after moving on to secondary college.

"He worked with Fr Hayes, Fr Madden and Fr Coughlin and he enjoyed the work and the recognition, and the respect he got from the parishioners," Jo explains.

"He was very committed to his faith and showed interest in becoming a priest."

Jo, and those who support her, would like to see a 'circle of safety' in all organisations where adults interact with children so that concerns can be expressed or allegations made, and investigated by professionally trained people, before inappropriate behaviours pose a risk to children.

With the assistance of HEAR and Mel-

bourne-based survivors of clergy-abuse advocacy group In Good Faith, Jo pushed for the matter to be investigated, initially through the Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit (SOCAU). Lilydale CIU were then handed the case.

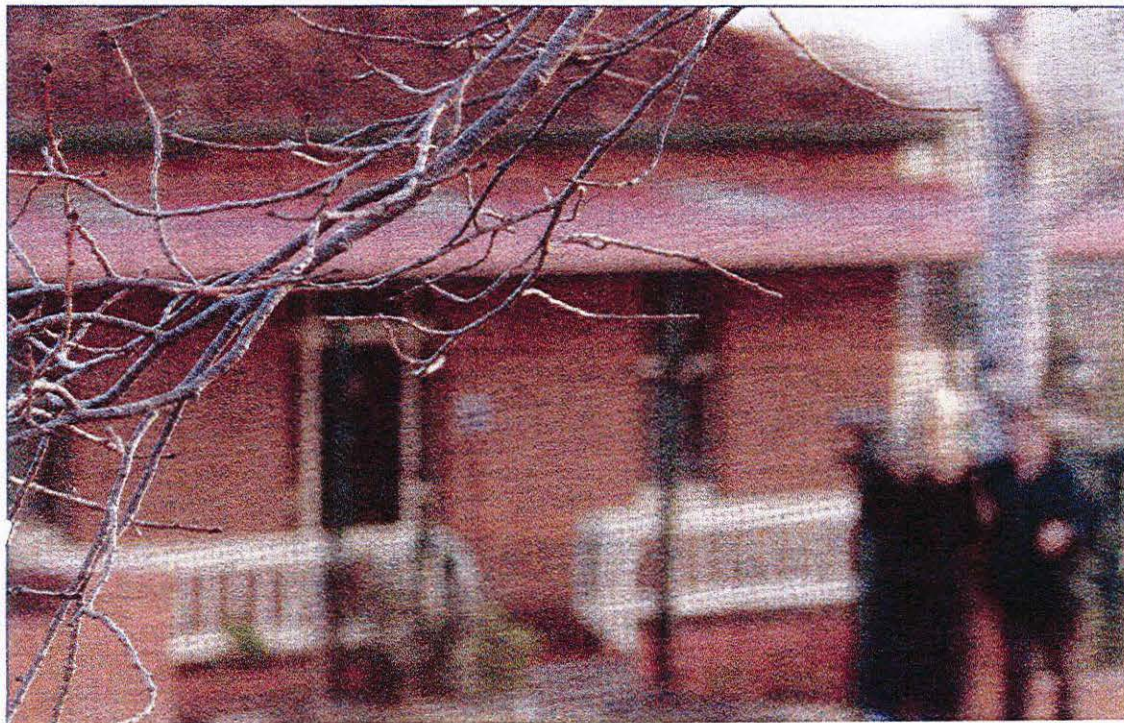
Investigations by Det Leading Senior Constable Mark Molloy led to computer equipment owned by Pavlou being seized.

The court heard police computer forensics experts unearthed more than 1000 child pornography images and videos, the majority involving adolescent males engaged in sexual acts.

Her son, she says, is coping, continuing his schooling and relieved the court case is finally over.

She will continue, with others, to advocate for changes to the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese' response for dealing with clergy sexual abuse.

*Not her real name.



Jo* and HEAR co-founder Ian Lawther share a common goal to bring about change in the response of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to clergy sexual abuse. They spoke on the weekend outside the St Brigid's Parish Presbytery. 33285

HEAR call for church change

By Kath Gannaway

HEALESVILLE Education and Awareness Raising (HEAR) has renewed calls made by the group two years ago for reform of the Catholic Church's process for dealing with sexual abuse by priests.

Founders, Pam Krstic and Ian Lawther, spoke out last week following the conviction of former Healesville priest Paul Pavlou in June on charges relating to child sexual abuse and being in possession of child pornography.

That conviction follows the conviction in 2001 of another Healesville priest, Fr David Daniel on child sex abuse charges.

The church came under pressure following an Age investigation resulting from the Pavlou case in to what is known as the Melbourne Response – the process set up in 1996 by then Melbourne Archbishop George Pell to investigate abuse allegations and negotiate with victims matters of counselling and compensation.

While the church hierarchy continues to reject calls for change, Ms Krstic and Mr Lawther applauded

the actions of Geelong priest Fr Kevin Dillon, Newcastle Bishop Michael Malone and retired Sydney bishop Geoffrey Robinson who are backing a review.

Bishop Malone's comments, describing the response from fellow bishops on the issue as a "black hole of silence" was echoed by Ms Krstic who said with the exception of a handful of people the silence at all levels, from local congregations to the hierarchy of the church, was deafening.

She says those who speak out within the church are marginalised.

"I don't believe the church in Melbourne will co-operate with the kind of review that is necessary unless ordinary catholic people start to say they want it done," she said.

Ms Krstic said she was frustrated and upset, but not surprised that articles in the Mail revealing the impact on local victims and their families did not evoke a response.

"It upsets me, but it doesn't surprise me," she said. "It's a common response that people when forced to acknowledge something as confronting as this, denial is the easiest

way of dealing with it.

"People think 'thank goodness it's not me, I won't let myself worry about it'," she said.

She said there was validation however for victims in hearing people's outrage.

"By safely talking about these things it not only helps victims but helps prevent other offences happening," she said.

Mr Lawther, whose son was abused by David Daniel, said the biggest problem with child abuse was the complacency of people who had not been affected.

Describing the Catholic Church's response to the issue as "arrogance" he said HEAR would continue to agitate for change.

He said the fact that even a few churchmen had come out in support of victims gave him heart.

"If they are not part of the solution, they are part of the problem," he said.

"They need to stand up as a group and tell their bishops what is wrong with the system."

HEAR can be contacted on 0410 859 059 or 0427 511 702.

HEAR gears up for fight

By Kath Gannaway

A HEALESVILLE group fighting for changes to the Catholic Church's response to sexual abuse within the church has spoken out, following the release last week of a damning report on the church in Ireland.

The Murphy Report details hundreds of cases of sexual abuse by priests in Dublin between 1975 and 2004.

HEAR (Healesville Education and Awareness Raising re Clergy Professional Misconduct and Sexual Abuse) say they are frustrated by the mounting weight of evidence of cultural abuse and the Melbourne Archdiocese's unwillingness to engage in dialogue with the victims, their families and groups lobbying for change.

HEAR presented an open letter to Catholic Vicar-General, Bishop Les Tomlinson when he celebrated

mass at St Brigid's Church in Healesville in September but say they have received no reply to their questions or to their call for a meeting.

Two St Brigid's priests have been convicted and placed on the Sexual Offenders Register—David Daniel in 2000 and Paul Pavlou in August this year.

HEAR member Ian Lawther, and the mother of the boy abused by Pavlou presented the letter in person.

Mr Lawther said the Murphy Report raised the same issues over church practices in dealing with investigations of alleged abuse, which have not been adequately addressed in The Melbourne Response, set up by Archbishop George Pell in 1996 to handle more than 400 sexual abuse cases.

"There is every reason to believe that the church culture of Ireland has been repeated here," he

said calling for an investigation and report along similar lines.

HEAR, in their letter to Bishop Tomlinson, called for the development of a child-safe environment policy for schools and parishes with an annual audit and reviews by an independent body to ensure compliance.

Mr Lawther said it was a model practised in many other dioceses around the world.

They questioned why Daniel and Pavlou remain priests and asked what action was being taken to laicise priests convicted of sexual offences.

They asked for details of what improvements had been put in place to screen priests in Melbourne.

The Mail also requested answers to those, and other questions, from Bishop Tomlinson but did not receive a response before going to print.



HEAR members Ian Lawther and Pam Krstic want answers. They, along with a member who cannot be identified for legal reasons, handed an open letter to Bishop Les Tomlinson during Child Protection Week in September. 40513

Sex priest 'betrayal'

LAURIE NOWELL

A PEDOPHILE clergyman has been sent to conduct an Easter mass in a church that has seen two priests convicted over child sexual abuse — one as recently as last year.

Parishioners at St Brigid's Parish in Healesville were outraged last month over plans for admitted child sex fiend Father Barry Robinson to carry out Easter services as a temporary replacement priest.

The visit came only 12 months after former Healesville priest Paul Pavlou was convicted of possessing child pornography and the indecent assault of a boy, 14, and given an 18-month suspended sentence.

In 2000, Father David Daniel, also a one-time Healesville priest, was sentenced to six years' jail and classified as a serious sexual offender over 16 counts of indecent assault, gross indecency, and indecent acts involving children.

VATICAN'S 50-YEAR COVER-UP

THE Vatican has been ordering the cover up of sexual abuse in Australia and throughout the world for almost 50 years, according to a confidential church document obtained from a secret archive.

Victims groups have labelled the document "explosive" and "a guide to concealment".

A spokesman for the Melbourne-based Broken Rites victim support group said the document was an attempt to "protect the brand of the Catholic Church".

The Catholic Church issued the Latin document, en-

The *Sunday Herald Sun* has learned Father Robinson is one two Catholic priests found to have been the perpetrators of sexual abuse who have been appointed to a panel of supply, or fill-in, priests in Victoria.

The other is Father Graham Redfern, who is also a senior army chaplain.

Both been found by the church to have abused young people under their pastoral care — yet they both are still

able to conduct church services and deliver pastoral care.

Father Robinson has admitted having sex with a 16-year-old boy in Boston in the 1990s, according to US court documents. Father Redfern was found by a church investigator Peter O'Callaghan, QC, to have had sexually abused a vulnerable 18-year-old Dandenong boy who was grieving after his mother's death in the 1970s.

itled 'Crimine Solicitationes', in 1962 to all bishops, including Australia's then senior Catholic figures Cardinal Gilroy of Sydney and Melbourne's Archbishop Daniel Mannix. It bears the seal of Pope John XXIII and outlines a policy for dealing with abuse allegations in "strictest secrecy" and calls on victims to take an oath of secrecy when making a complaint to the church.

It threatens excommunication to those who speak out.

A spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne declined to comment on the document.

He had given the boy's mother the last rites and carried out her funeral service.

Father Robinson was at the centre of fresh controversy last month when parishioners at St Brigid's planned a protest over his proposed visit to their Easter Vigil.

An email campaign saw the new priest confronted over the visit and the event cancelled.

Easter masses at the church were abandoned and locals forced to travel to Lilydale.

Parishioners said the attempt to bring Father Robinson to Healesville was "shocking" and "horrifying".

"It was incredibly shocking and disrespectful of parishioners and the whole community," a female church member said.

"Parishioners, many with children, were asked to welcome this man into their homes. It is beyond belief.

"The Archdiocese has a lot to answer for, for putting us through this after what happened with Father Pavlou.

"We have been betrayed again."

A Melbourne Archdiocese spokesman said: "Father Robinson occasionally stands in in parishes in circumstances where the resident priest may be unavailable due to other commitments, illness or vacation. He does not otherwise hold any office or appointment within the Archdiocese. Father Robinson has not been charged or found guilty of any criminal conduct."

Recommendations

Church

- Abolish the present response and all personnel involved – they are tainted even if well-meaning and genuine and must be reassigned far away from new response.
- Work with state authorities, child welfare professionals and complainant representatives to establish truly independent entities to oversee
 - (1) establishing and maintaining safe environments
 - (2) justice for victims;
- Work with state authorities, independent trauma specialist psychologists, child welfare professionals and victims to establish best practice education programs for all – priests, lay workers, employees including school staff; volunteers, parents; other parishioners and children;
- Work with state authorities, police and independent child welfare professionals to establish and implement adequate scenario training for mandatory reporting;
- Ensure that all sexual matters are reported to specialist police officers and child protection professionals not the CEO or archdiocesan officials;
- Work with state authorities and independent child welfare professionals to establish policies and procedures to create safe environments – examining the various models around the world and adapting them to ensure we adopt world's best practice;
- Adopt the paramountcy principle – that the well-being of children and vulnerable adults takes precedence over the 'natural justice' they keep affording the perpetrator – these must not be balanced as of equal weight!
- Work with state authorities, independent trauma specialist psychologists, child welfare professionals and victims representatives to establish best practice crisis response for when an allegation is made. A response team should include independent trauma specialist welfare professionals and psychologists as well as police and specially trained church pastoral workers;

- Work with state authorities, police, independent trauma specialist psychologists, welfare professionals, lawyers and victim representatives to establish best practice response to victims;
- This response should include the provision of a case worker/advocate to liaise with families, police, mental health professionals, welfare agencies and Centrelink etc for the victim if he/she so wishes;
- Nominate entity to be sued by victims and agree to be a model litigant (as the government has in cases of sexual abuse in government institutions)
- Implement a completely independent complaints procedure
- All of the above must be accountable to the independent board and reviewed and audited by an entity established by the government who have the ultimate responsibility to ensure the safety of Victorian children.
- Abolish statute of limitations completely in canon law for clergy sexual abuse
- Canon law norms to include zero tolerance of any offending including for credible allegations even if offender not prosecuted in criminal law courts
- Ensure that canon law hearings do not drag out for twelve years as they have in the US.

Government Action / Law Reform

- Prosecute those who have endangered children. Only by knowing that they may face a jail term will priests or other underlings disobey their bishop. That is why it is really important to prosecute those who have endangered children following the directions of a bishop or the Vatican.
- Establish an ombudsman with powers and a multi-disciplinary body to oversee all responses. All organisations to be accountable to this body which will regularly review/audit response system to ensure best practice. Failure to meet expectations should mean deregistration of the body as an approved organisation to work with children.
- At present the overarching body for private schools is the registered schools board. Audits could be undertaken by them but only by specially employed experts in child protection and safe environments.
- This body should ensure all the recommendations under the 'Church' heading above are addressed by the Church

- Mandatory reporting must be extended to cover all adults. The laws must make also make grooming reportable. The laws need to explain grooming in the way NSW law does, if not better.
- Abolish Statute of limitations for child sexual abuse for all Victorian Law – criminal and civil litigation.
- The Church must be a legal entity. The Church is unlikely to do this so it must be mandated by government legal reform
- Law reform must ensure the Church's assets are not protected by property trusts
- Priests must legally be employees. Victorian law must require that any organisation working with children has a well-established pathway of responsibility and, if they do not then, they should not be registered to have care of or jurisdiction over children in Victoria
- The people of Victoria are entitled to demand that the Church acknowledge that they are responsible for their priest's debts if they expect them to take a vow of poverty.
- The power of the priest in a parish and in the parish school must be addressed. He is the employer of the principal and teachers and they fear for their jobs if they make allegations against him. Priests should not be in sole charge of a school.
- Schools should be part of an accountable system not a single entity under the charge of one priest. The school board should have some power to stand against him but they don't unless he gives it to them.
- Teachers need to be much better trained to recognise grooming and the signs of child abuse. They are at the coal face with children daily and they need to be more attuned to children who may be struggling with abuse issues not just from clergy abuse but from the far more likely abuse in the family.
- It is painful being a whistleblower – they should have some recourse for lost career and financial security. Workcare is not an adequate response for this.

Police and Responding Professionals

- Better resourcing of police and professionals responding to abuse



- Better training for all police to ensure they are fully aware of best practice in responding to child sexual abuse in all situations and particularly clergy abuse. This must include an understanding of the dynamics of disclosure and concern for other possible victims despite this causing a greater workload.
- Police should investigate all allegations of child sexual abuse thoroughly treating the case as that of a possible serial offender. Offenders usually have patterns of behaviour over many years and these should be looked into to ensure other possible victims are resourced with support and given the opportunity to report. This must be done very carefully in cooperation with a well-resourced, professional team of trauma psychologists and welfare workers.

Outreach to affected families is vital

An overarching recommendation is that all Victorian families be given training in recognising healthy/unhealthy adult child relationships, grooming, signs of abuse and dynamics of disclosure as just one part of a comprehensive parenting education package. This training delivered through children's welfare community hubs and ensure well attended by linking with family tax payments eligibility.

All children participate in empowerment programs that deal with bullying and *also* abuse by adults

The cost of this will be recovered over time as the huge cost to the community once children have been abused is well established.