

The Catholic Church 2012:

- The Catholic Church appears to have made many positive changes since my dealings with them in 1997 in relation to clergy abuse.
- In 1997, all that was available was a double-sided brochure outlining “Towards Healing” program and a contact number.
- In 2012, the changes include clear guidelines and process for all aspects of dealing with victims of clergy abuse. Their website and in particular their pages on the Towards Healing initiative provide comprehensive information and support for those seeking justice and compensation for clergy abuse.
- June 2012 - I contacted Carelink, a Catholic support agency to try and get a copy of the statement I had given to the Church back in 1997. I contacted Carelink first rather than the Towards Healing number as I thought as a counselling service I am more likely strike someone with some compassion.
- I was treated extremely well and a search was conducted for my statement. I was also encouraged to recontact Towards Healing to speak to Mr Peter O'Callaghan QC again. I was offered assistance with transport and a support person to accompany me to see Mr O'Callaghan when I recounted my experience of hesitation and fear back in 1997.