



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

12 July 2012

HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE IN NON-STATE ORGANISATIONS – SUBMISSION GUIDE AVAILABLE

A Parliamentary Committee requested to investigate issues relating to the handling of child abuse in religious and other non-government organisations has released a Submission Guide.

The Committee is seeking submissions relating to:

- The causes and effects of criminal abuse within religious and other non-government organisations.
- Whether victims were in any way discouraged from reporting such abuse, either within the relevant organisation or to the police.
- If such abuse was reported, how the reporting of their experience of abuse was handled.
- The consequences of abuse, including the effect on the victims and others, and the consequences for the offender(s).
- The adequacy of the policies, procedures and practices within religious and other non-government organisations that relate to the prevention of, and response to, child abuse.
- Suggestions for reform, to help prevent abuse and ensure that allegations of abuse are properly dealt with. This includes both reforms to Victorian laws and reforms to the policies, procedures and practices within religious and other non-government organisations.

The Submission Guide and the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry can be found on the Committee's website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc.

Written submissions to the Inquiry can be made by email (fcdc@parliament.vic.gov.au), by eSubmission via the Committee's website (www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc/) or by post to:

Family and Community Development Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

For further information contact Janine Bush, Executive Officer, Victorian Parliamentary Family & Community Development Committee: (03) 8682 2843.