



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

# MEDIA RELEASE

**From Ms Georgie Crozier, MLC (Chair)**

18 June 2012

## **HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE IN RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS – CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

A Parliamentary Committee requested to investigate issues relating to the handling of child abuse in religious and other non-government organisations has called for submissions.

The terms of reference to the Inquiry request that the Committee investigate processes by which religious and other non-government organisations respond to the criminal abuse of children by personnel within their organisations, including:

1. the practices, policies and protocols in such organisations for the handling of allegations of criminal abuse of children, including measures put in place by various organisations in response to concerns about such abuse within the organisation or the potential for such abuse to occur;
2. whether there are systemic practices in such organisations that operate to preclude or discourage the reporting of suspected criminal abuse of children to State authorities; and
3. whether changes to law or to practices, policies and protocols in such organisations are required to help prevent criminal abuse of children by personnel in such organisations and to deal with allegations of such abuse.

In undertaking the inquiry, the Committee has been asked to be mindful of not encroaching upon the responsibilities of investigatory agencies or the courts in relation to particular cases or prejudicing the conduct or outcome of investigations or court proceedings.

Ms Georgie Crozier, MLC stated that the Committee has been asked to report to the Victorian Parliament by 30 April 2013.

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