

Friday 7th July 2013

Georgie Crozier, MP

Chair

Family and Community Development Committee

Parliament of Victoria

Spring Street

East Melbourne 3002

Dear Ms Crozier

EMERITUS PROFESSOR FREDA BRIGG'S SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE HANDLING OF
CHILD ABUSE BY RELIGIOUS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

I am writing on behalf of CEASE which is the Peak Body in Victoria for the 13 organisations in Victoria that provide treatment services for children and young people with problematic sexual behaviour and sexually abusive behaviours. CEASE is auspiced by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) and provides a central contact point for matters in relation to problematic sexual behaviour and sexually abusive behaviours. In addition, CEASE is responsible for developing standards for service provision in the field, providing leadership and promoting best practice.

Since 2007 1700 children and young people have been through this program. Of children and young people exiting this program, 40-45 per cent have met all their treatment goals. Synergistiq have conducted an Evaluation of the Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment Services across the state. The report is due to be released in July 2013.

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The increase in funding for this service system, which has bi partisan support from Government, was a result of changes in the Children, Youth and Families Act 2007 where Therapeutic Treatment Boards, Therapeutic Treatment Orders, Therapeutic Treatment Reports and Therapeutic Placement Orders were created. Prior to 2007 it is true there were limited services for this group of children and young people. However, since 2007 a comprehensive service system has started to develop and the workforce has started to develop specialist expertise in working with these groups.

A final comment on Professor Brigg's submission relates to her comment about the lack of training in relation to this issue. There are a number of sources of training in Victoria which is not to suggest that more training would not be advantageous. ANZATSA provides regular training for those working with sexual offending behaviour and sexually abusive behaviours. CEASE runs four training days a year for the field. The Department of Human Services Child Protection workers have a 10 day Advanced Sexual Abuse Course and the Department has created Specialist Practice Resources which are freely available.

Clearly there can always be additional funding and training but Victoria has a developed system in place that positions it to improve access and practice in the future.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 9928 8741.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Worth

Chair

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