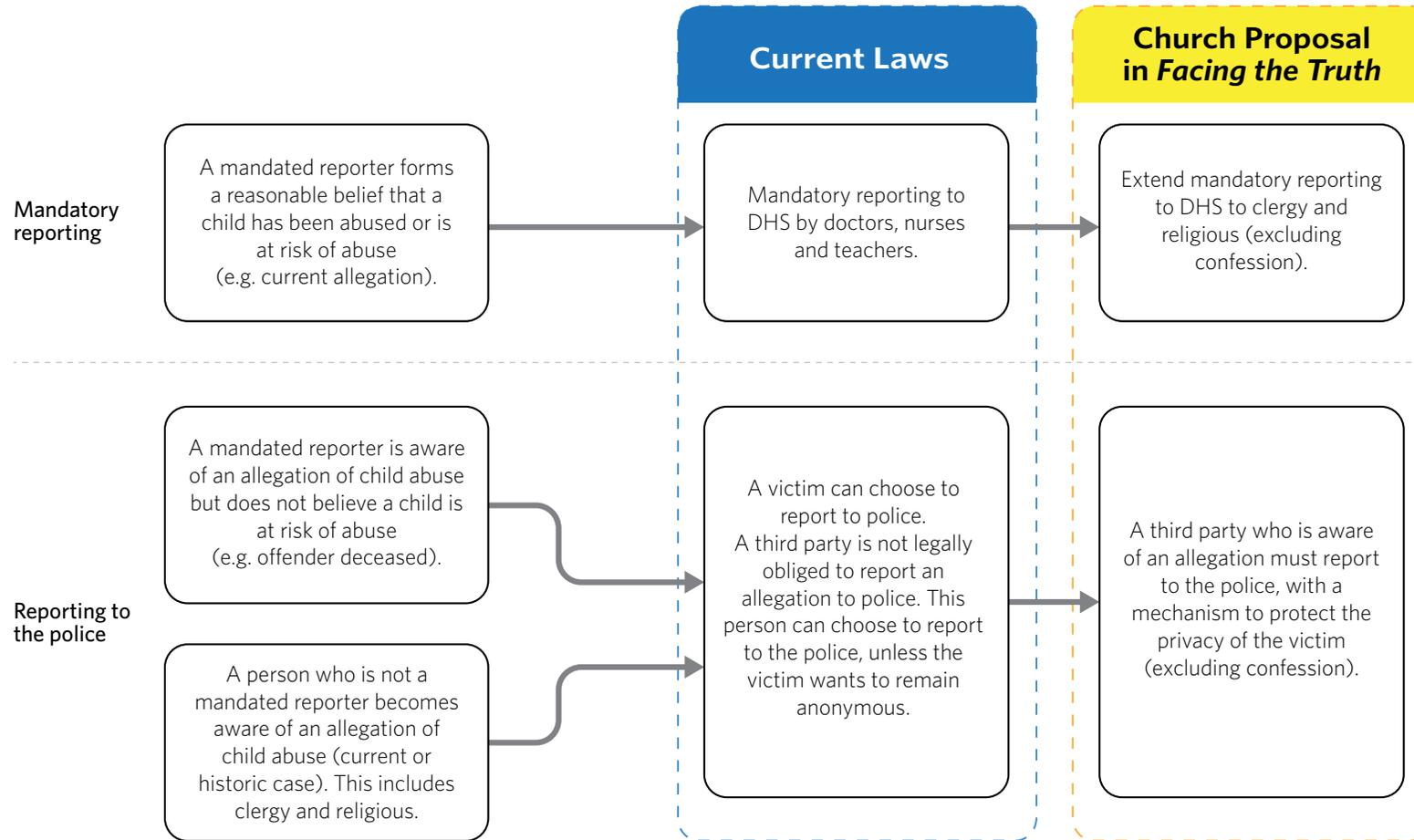


## Two major recommendations in *Facing the Truth*



### WHEN A CHILD IS AT RISK

#### Current laws

Under current laws, mandatory reporting to DHS applies when a mandated reporter forms a reasonable belief that a child is at risk, for example because a complaint is made of recent child abuse. Doctors, nurses and teachers are currently mandated to report.

#### Church proposal

The Church proposes that mandatory reporting be extended to clergy and religious, so that they are required to report to DHS. The reporting obligation applies regardless of the identity of the accused. It includes circumstances where the accused is another member of the clergy or religious.

### WHEN THE COMPLAINT DOES NOT POSE A CURRENT RISK TO CHILDREN

#### Current laws

Where a child is not at risk, which is the case in most complaints to the police by an adult victim, there is no obligation under current laws to report crimes to police or DHS. The law recognises the right of adults to decide whether to report allegations.

#### Church proposal

The Church proposes that any third party who becomes aware of allegations of criminal abuse must report the allegations to the police, even when adult victims want their privacy protected and do not want to report their complaint to police. A mechanism is required to protect the privacy of the victim.