



New Submission to Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

POV eSubmission Form

to:

fcde

20/07/2012 11:06 AM

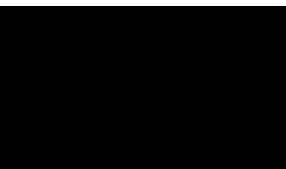
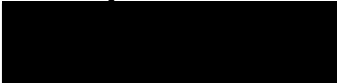
[Hide Details](#)

From: POV eSubmission Form <committees@parliament.vic.gov.au>

To: fcde@parliament.vic.gov.au

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations

Miss Elyse Burns



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

I wish to voice concern over pressure that may be brought to bear upon the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, in regard to breaching the (sacred) confidentiality of the sacrament of confession.

While it is impossible for priests to break the seal of the confessional, it would be concerning if the state attempted to impose restrictions or laws upon religious practices.

It is of utmost importance to members of the Catholic Church that the confessional remains a place of healing and forgiveness, which is at no point revealed in any way to any other persons. Even the priest himself does not recount the past sins to their regular confessor unless by consent of the confessor.

It is, of course, of great importance to today's society and justice that victims of sexual assault are brought closure by means of correct charging; but it is also of importance that these same victims are given the assurance that if they were to go to confession at any stage of their lives, the confessional

would remain sealed, with no interference from the state.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

Elyse Burns