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

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

Father Paul Walliker

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I would like to give evidence with regard to the conduct of the Anglican Church in the state of Victoria. I am a former Anglican priest with a long experience of dealing with sexual assault victims dating back to 1978. I have been a consultant for Human Services both in NSW and Victoria.

In particular I have evidence of the yawning gap between the public posture of the Anglican Church and the reality of how things were handled in the Diocese of Wangaratta in particular. I also can speak to the way that pedophile priests used the foster child system in NSW to obtain vulnerable young people for grooming and also exploitation. I can also speak of my own experience of having been indecently assaulted by a colleague and when I sought to report the matter the Police refused to take a statement, something that I have never had a formal apology for. The Bishop when informed of the incident dismissed it and I was initially given one counseling session which I ended up being billed for but I refused to pay it and left it to the Psychologist and the Diocese to fight it out. I can inform the Parliament of the abuse that I had from various members of the clergy for my speaking out, including from a Bishop who described me as "piece of shit". I can talk of being basically excommunicated and told that I was not welcome in any Anglican Church in the Diocese of Wangaratta. I can speak to the fact that despite the best efforts of various clergy and a Bishop to have me granted a formal "permission to officiate" license it was refused by the then Archbishop of Melbourne with me being informed informally that this was part of the payback for the 7:30 Report program in which I appeared.

There is obviously a lot more to what I have to say. I am disabled due to an illness which can affect my ability to write at times. Therefore I would seek make an appearance whereby I could answer directly questions regarding matters I have raised.