

From: Mark [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:45 PM
To: 'fcdc@parliament.vic.gov.au'
Subject: My Submission: INQUIRY INTO THE HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE BY RELIGIOUS

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I have no experience in submitting in writing events that still cause me emotional stress. The world of hurt and distress in my everyday thoughts is hard enough, then to dissect each thought and put it in writing is a mission.

I prefer to tell my story and then to finalise with points of concern that this enquiry should focus on.

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I wish to outline in the following points the issues I have with my experience of going through the 'Towards Healing' process.

I was sexually interfered with by a Brother Sweeney at Salesian College, Glen Waverley, Melbourne. Bro.Sweeney ran the Don Bosco boys club which was attached to the school. The Brothers also had their residence at the same location as the club. He took me to his residence on a number of occasions and had me massage him naked with talcum powder. He would then massage me. He also found his way into my home where my single mother was raising five children. It was here that he would also do the same in my bedroom while my mother is cooking, cleaning, looking after four dogs etc.

During the Towards Healing process I was asked to draw a diagram of Bro.Sweenys room. It was a standalone fibro cottage. In the diagram I got the interior fairly accurate but I did not recall that there was another bedroom for another brother. As a result I had the entrance door incorrect. Trying to recall every surrounding detail as a 10yo is a tall task. To get one detail wrong, 20 years later, and then in turn have this 'implied' that I was not telling the truth was further abuse in itself.

I had been abused prior to this over a three year period. The head of Salesian College, Father Murdoch said at Towards Healing conference that it was that abuse that caused all my problems. For sure, the first abuse caused me problems but **ANY SEXUAL** abuse is carried through life and only a survivor would understand that **ALL SEXUAL ABUSE CARRIES THE SAME WEIGHT !!**

After 18 months or thereabouts of going down this Church invented path, I had to get my own solicitor anyway. So, what was the point ?

Also at Towards Healing conference, Father Murdoch said he spoke to Brother Sweeny on his death bed and he admitted to only abusing little girls not little boys. So a so called death bed confession is now supposed to brush away my complaint as false ? He admitted to abuse, I don't know why he did not admit to mine. Maybe trying to save face at the last minute.

Why then did I go down this path and end up having to hire a lawyer all because I had previously been fucked by a different pedophile and it was agreed by Salesian College that Brother Sweeny's actions could not have impacted on me. See paragraph four again.

In Summary:

- **Towards Healing needs to focus more on the damage to the victim than on their 'Appearance To Care'**
- **Previous abuse that has occurred outside the church should not be used as a weapon against the victim.**
- **If the Towards Healing process has hit a wall then the church should fund a solicitor for the victim. By me having to source and hire my own lawyer was a slap in the face and a validation from the church that I was lying from the outset.**
- **Asking for specific details of surroundings when the abuse occurred 25 years ago is difficult. What isn't difficult is describing a molesters hands on you and your genitals. The church needs to separate the two recollections.**
- **After legal fees I was fobbed off with \$8000. They knew I had run out of options. They knew I didn't have the emotional capacity to continue. They knew I did not have the funds to continue.**
- **At conference I was offered by the church, "Prayers". Prayer time is over. I can pray for myself. What I wanted was some real remorse from them as an organization and an apology. I got neither.**
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I am more than happy to front the committee if the need arises.

For your consideration,

Mark Beaumont

