

**Submission to
Victorian Government Inquiry**

**Family and Community Development Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations.

**From
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Background

Salt Shakers is a Christian (Protestant) Para-Church group.

We originated, 18 years ago, as part of Crossway Baptist Church but have been an independent, cross-denominational group, for about 13 years. This change occurred so we were free to research issues and make comment to the media and to make submissions to government such as this.

I wish to only make a short submission because I consider many other people far better qualified to deal with the shocking incidence of child and young person abuse by those who should have given the greatest duty of care possible to vulnerable young people - those in religious churches and schools.

As a Christian Ministry we have been involved with helping churches develop a 'policy of action' to deal with situations of child abuse - if and when any hint of sexual abuse occurs, especially, of course, that relating to children and young people.

Our first point to them is that the police should immediately be informed upon the first hint of an accusation or suspicion of abuse and that a church must never ever attempt to deal with such complaints 'in-house'.

Our findings

It has been clear from our own research, and from news reports, victim stories, and statistics on many web sites, that a large part of the abuse that has occurred within religious establishments has been between male Priests and teaching Brothers within the Roman Catholic system. Not totally, of course, but a very large part of it.

What is also clear is that most male abuse of young females is restricted to one, or a very small number of victims, per male abuser. Whereas a great deal of the abuse perpetrated between a male with a boy/young man has been serial. It has involved much larger numbers of abused young people per single male and it has continued wherever that male has been moved to.

This is not only an indictment on the male person himself, but also on those who have clearly tried to 'deal' with the situation, 'in house'. This is a totally preposterous way for any organisation, church, or person to deal with such a horrific situation as child sexual abuse.

It is also clear this is not only the case here in Victoria and across Australia, but across the world.

In his excellent book, *'Good Bye Good Men - How liberals brought corruption into the Catholic Church'*, author Michael Rose interviewed over 125 seminarians across the USA to examine the reasons why the Catholic Church now faces an alarming shortage of priests. In fact, what he discovered was a culture of homosexuality. Anyone who did not accept that culture was refused entry to many US seminaries. He actually discovered many instances of seminarians dressing up and leaving the seminary to attend homosexual night spots.

This is a religious denominational system that forces its Priests and teaching Brothers to remain single. It is also clear that a great deal of the abuse within the Catholic church in Australia, as it is elsewhere in the world, by those male Priests and teaching 'Brothers' has involved young, vulnerable, early teenage boys. While it is not politically correct to say so, that has to be acknowledged as homosexual predatory behaviour.

While I am not suggesting that same culture is as wide-spread here in Australia, I am indeed suggesting that it exists and that a blind eye has been turned to it for decades.

I would certainly recommend that those on the *Family and Community Development Committee* access a copy of the book to review what Michael Rose discovered was a large part of the cause of the abuse that has existed, which has now been recognised by the Roman Catholic Church in the USA.

Some years ago we discovered that the 'remedy' for Priest and teaching Brothers who abuse boys was to try to "stop them acting out their homosexual tendencies".

Such a response was and still is totally unacceptable.

Homosexual feelings are not innate or something anyone is born with.

See <http://www.mygenes.co.nz/download.htm> for good scientific research on this issue

Many people have left their same-sex attraction behind them following good counselling, and sometimes prayer if they are Christians. Many require help to uncover why they felt that way in the first place.

Evidence shows that same-sex attraction (SSA) can have many 'causes' - a reaction to some form of dysfunction within the family, some form of trauma when very young or by actually being sexually abused themselves, usually by an adult. This 'cause is especially relevant in the Catholic Church and can be the cause of the next generation of abuser. Ironically, without realising that they are repeating something which happened to them when young.

Conclusion

People can and do leave the homosexual lifestyle. Homosexuality is not genetic or innate.

The fact that homosexuality is not innate or genetic has even been acknowledged by homosexual activists such as **Dennis Altman**, a Professor at Latrobe University and openly homosexual has also noted it is not genetic. In his book *Aids and the New Puritanism* (Pluto Press, 1986, p.188) he wrote, "being gay is a choice."

Homosexual website gbtq says of Altman, "*Altman believes that homosexuality is constructed by social and political forces. As a result, he pays little attention to the search for a "gay gene" for, according to Altman, [homosexual] advocates of genetic causes for homosexuality shirk their political responsibility.*"

Peter Tatchell (an Australian activist now living in England) also says it is not genetic.

In an article titled **Homosexuality: it isn't natural** (Tuesday 24 June 2008), by Peter Tatchell, the sub-title is "**Ignore those researchers who claim to have discovered a 'gay gene', says Peter Tatchell: gay desire is not genetically determined.**"

Tatchell wrote, "*But contrary to what the authors seem to suggest, an influence is not the same as a cause. Genes and hormones may predispose a person to one sexuality rather than another. But that's all. Predisposition and determination are two different things.*"

There is a major problem with gay gene theory, and with all theories that posit the biological programming of sexual orientation. If heterosexuality and homosexuality are, indeed, genetically predetermined (and therefore mutually exclusive and unchangeable), how do we explain bisexuality or people who, suddenly in mid-life, switch from heterosexuality to homosexuality (or vice versa)? We can't."

Reprinted from: <http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php?/site/article/5375/>

Graham Willett, a lecturer at the University of Melbourne and a historian for the homosexual community in Australia, has promoted promotes the idea that homosexuality is not genetic. In fact, in an interview in a Sydney homosexual newspaper following the publication of his book '*Living Out Loud*', he was asked about his view that homosexuality was not genetic.

He said:

*"I think the idea that sexuality is genetic is crap. There is absolutely no evidence for it at the moment, and I think it is unhealthy that people want to embrace this idea. It does reflect a desire to say, "it's not our fault", as a way of deflecting our critics. We have achieved what we have achieved by defiance, not by concessions. **I think we should be recruiting people to homosexuality....** If you believe it's genetic, how are you going to make the effort" [to recruit]?"*

[CAPITAL Q WEEKLY, 3 Nov. 2000, Page 17.]

I have friends who have themselves spent years engaging in homosexual sex, but who are now living a heterosexual life. Some are married (to opposite gender spouses) and now have children of their own. One such friend is a Pastor and has grandchildren.

If you would like to meet him I am sure that can be arranged.

I have friends in the Catholic church who are very concerned that their church has been so tainted by this child abuse - I sympathise with them. These people feel greatly let down, often by the way their church has dealt with the issue, but know that unless this issue is properly dealt with the problem will not go away.

We trust that the Victorian Government *Family and Community Development Committee* will be able to uncover the truth and make that truth known. Anything less will be to the detriment of many young Australians.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

Sadly, too few 'researchers' are prepared to confront the real truth, behind this epidemic of abuse – same sex attraction / homosexuality.

I trust you will be determined enough to seek out the truth so as not be intimidated by those who would aggressively push against such a finding because they want to normalise their homosexual behaviour.

Peter Stokes

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