

Facing the Truth

Learning from the Past How the Catholic Church in Victoria has Responded to Child Abuse

Fact Sheet 12 **Introducing oversight to Church processes**

11 July 2013

Introducing statutory oversight and reporting processes for investigations undertaken by all government and non-government agencies that work with children is one of five reforms proposed by the Catholic Church in Victoria to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sexual abuse.

The Church supports statutory oversight and reporting processes for investigations undertaken by all government and non-government agencies that work with children. It proposes a system similar to that operated by the New South Wales Ombudsman.

At the Parliamentary Inquiry, the testimony of the Deputy New South Wales Ombudsman, Mr Steve Kinmond, illustrated a way to give the community effective oversight of Church processes.

The New South Wales Ombudsman Act imposes reporting requirements on organisations that work with children in that state. It requires government and designated non-government agencies to report any allegation that an employee of the agency has engaged in "reportable conduct", to investigate it, and to report the findings of such investigations.

All Catholic Dioceses in New South Wales are designated agencies, and are now overseen by the Ombudsman.

Such a system could be introduced in Victoria, and the Church has recommended that the Inquiry consider its introduction.

For further information, go to: <http://www.cam.org.au/Portals/45/Documents/Submission-by-the-Catholic-Church-in-Victoria-Regarding-Reform-Proposals.pdf>

For more information and support

www.facingthetruth.org.au

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