

Facing the Truth

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

Fact Sheet 14 **Reform to mandatory reporting law**

11 July 2013

Extending mandatory reporting to include ministers of religion is one of five reforms proposed by the Catholic Church in Victoria to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sexual abuse.

Currently teachers, nurses, doctors and police are required to report a reasonably held belief that a child is in need of protection from physical or sexual abuse to the Department of Human Services. This is required under mandatory reporting laws that were introduced in 1993. The Church supports extending such mandatory reporting to ministers of religion and religious brothers and sisters, with an exemption for information received during the rite of confession.

The Church believes that the reporting obligation should apply regardless of the identity of the accused, and should therefore include circumstances where the accused is another member of the clergy or religious.

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

A chart illustrating the current law and the Church's proposed changes is available at:
http://www.cam.org.au/Portals/45/Documents/factsheets/Fact-Sheet-4_Mandatory-Reporting-flowchart.pdf

For more information and support

www.facingthetruth.org.au

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