Information for Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse

What services are available to me?

Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA) - (03) 9550 2289
- Provide individual counselling, support and advocacy
- Involved in community advocacy and education
- 15 centres across Victoria
- Offer after-hours SA crisis telephone line.¹

In Good Faith and Associates (IGFA) - (03) 9326 5991
- Interdenominational advocacy and consultancy service
- Provide professional advocacy, education and support to victims of CSA, their families and communities
- Utilise restorative justice practices to enhance their clients’ engagement with existing church complaint procedures.²

Sexual Assault Victims’ Advocates (SAVAs) - (03) 9326 5991
- Provide advocacy and liaison
- Offer restorative justice for individuals and families and support victims through civil compensation processes
- Individual fees apply.³

Melbourne Victims’ Collective (MVC) - (03) 9326 5991
- Project founded by IGFA
- Over 40 members, all survivors of CSA within the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese
- Offers “pastoral advocacy and spiritual advice” to survivors, through Fr Kevin Dillon (Parish Priest of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong).⁴

Broken Rites Australia - (03) 9457 4999
- Operated by a committee of part-time volunteers who have experienced first or second-hand
- Advises survivors about pathways to justice
- Maintains lists of clergy members who have been charged (both civil and criminal), from cases with which they have assisted.
- Free telephone service
- Australia-wide.⁵

¹ http://www.casa.org.au
² http://www.igfa.com.au
³ http://www.igfa.com.au
⁴ http://www.igfa.com.au
Who can assist me in taking legal action?

In Victoria, there are legal firms that have particular experience and a specialized knowledge in issues related to the Catholic Church. The following lawyers in Victoria consider themselves equipped to work with survivors of CSA who wish to take civil and/or criminal action:

**Lewis Holdway Lawyers**
- Contact Persons: Paul Holdway or Ruth Baker
- Tel: (03) 9629 9629
- Address: 20 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000
- Website: [www.lewisholdway.com.au](http://www.lewisholdway.com.au)

**Ryan Carlisle Lawyers**
- Contact Person: Angela Sdrinis
- Tel: (03) 9238 7878
- Address: 41 Robinson Street, Dandenong VIC 3175

**Waller Legal**
- Contact Person: Dr Vivian Waller
- Tel: (03) 9480 2173
- Address: Law Courts, Melbourne VIC 8010

What can the catholic church do to assist me?

The ‘Melbourne Response’
- Protocol for responding to allegations of CSA within the Melbourne Archdiocese
- Takes all complaints and currently offers compensation of up to $75,000 through its Compensation Panel
- Offers “spiritual support and guidance” to individuals and at a parish level
- First point of contact: Office of the Independent Commissioner.
  - Tel: (03) 9225 7979

‘Towards Healing’
- Protocol for responding to allegations of CSA in Australia in areas other than the Melbourne Archdiocese
  - Tel: 1800 816 030

What are my options for taking action?
- Seek counselling/advocacy
- Instigate legal action (civil and/or criminal)
- Access the Melbourne Response/Towards Healing
- Report to the media

What may I request in a civil settlement?
- Compensation for their pain, and particularly, for therapy
- Donation from the church to an organisation dedicated to eradicating clergy abuse
- Defrocking & Publicity through commitment from the church for the perpetrator to be de-frocked and the fact (and reason) publicised

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- Reconciliation through a commitment by the Archdiocese to sponsor a reconciliation event organised primarily by victims
- Written Apology from the archbishop and/or the perpetrator (perpetrator likely not to, but archbishop might)

**Where can I find further information?**

- [www.brokenrites.alphalink.com.au](http://www.brokenrites.alphalink.com.au) (Broken Rites Australia)
- [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au) (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne)
- [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au) (Catholic Church of Australia)
- [www.childabuseroyalcommission.dpmc.gov.au](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.dpmc.gov.au) (Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse)
- [www.clergyabuseaustralia.org](http://www.clergyabuseaustralia.org) (Clergy Abuse Australia)
- [www.molestedcatholics.com](http://www.molestedcatholics.com) (Molested Catholics)