Working with Victorian Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse

Support services

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.

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.¹

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.²

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).³

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.⁴

¹ http://www.igfa.com.au
² http://www.igfa.com.au
³ http://www.igfa.com.au
Legal services

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 - (03) 9629 9629
Contact Persons: Paul Holdway or Ruth Baker
Address: 20 Queen St, Melbourne VIC 3000
Website: www.lewisholdway.com.au

Ryan Carlisle Lawyers - (03) 9238 7878
Contact Person: Angela Sdrinis
Address: 41 Robinson Street, Dandenong VIC 3175
Website: www.rct-law.com.au

Waller Legal - (03) 9480 2173
Contact Person: Dr Vivian Waller
Address: Law Courts, Melbourne VIC 8010
Website: www.vivwaller.com.au

Catholic Church protocols

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. 5
  Tel: (03) 9225 7979

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

Client pathways
- Seek counselling/advocacy
- Instigate legal action (civil and/or criminal)
- Access the Melbourne Response/Towards Healing
- Report to the media

What a client may 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
- Reconciliation through a commitment by the Archdiocese to sponsor a reconciliation event organised primarily by victims

5 http://www.cam.org.au/Melbourne-Response
- Written Apology from the archbishop and/or the perpetrator (perpetrator likely not to, but archbishop might)

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