

St. Mary's Cathedral

21st November, 1988

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Rev. Mgr. Kevin Manning
Secretary
Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference
G.P.O. BOX 368
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Re: Central Commission - Letter 25th August, 1988
Committee and Child Sexual Assault

Further to our conversations and the letter of 25th August, 1988 we submit the following for the consideration of the Central Commission.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Name: Australian Catholic Bishops' Special Issues Committee Relating to Priests and Religious

2. Function:

- To act as a resource for bishops and major superiors in connection with legal proceedings brought against a priest or religious, or in which a priest or religious is otherwise involved.
- To collate research locally and overseas.
- To advise bishops and major superiors in relation to any aspect of legal proceedings involving a priest or religious.
- To monitor all legal proceedings involving a priest or religious.
- To identify issues of concern to bishops and major superiors connected with legal proceedings involving a priest or religious, either in particular cases or generally.
- To ascertain available treatment options for priests or religious alleged to be involved in criminal behaviour.
- To establish a protocol to be observed by bishops and major superiors if an accusation is made against a priest or religious alleging criminal behaviour, and to advise on the implementation thereof.
- To identify needs with respect to the ongoing education and formation of clergy and religious to the extent that this is relevant to issues connected with legal proceedings.
- Generally to be of such assistance to bishops and major superiors as they might request from time to time.
- To advise the Australian Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Major Superiors with respect to representations which may need to be made from time to time to governments concerning legislation and public policy that may be relevant to legal proceedings involving priests or religious.