

**Diocese of Adelaide: Timeline of Responses
to Issues of Sexual Abuse in the Church.
1992 – 2003**

- September, 1992 Archbishop's Address to Synod.
- Noted the concern expressed at provincial meeting concerning the allegations of sexual abuse that are surfacing within churches.
 - Expressed an intention to call together a group of experts to devise diocesan protocols;
 - Expressed sensitivity to needs and concerns of victims
 - Gave rise to the establishment of a Diocesan Critical Incidents group.
- 1993 Suggestion by the Rev'd Don Owers that Church should first have known of abuse by Bob Brandenburg.
- May, 1994 Diocesan Council endorsed Critical Incidents' Working Party guidelines for receiving and handling complaints of sexual misconduct in the Diocese.
- Sept, 1994 Diocesan Response Group established to succeed Critical Incidents Working Party.
- April, 1999 Archbishop is aware of allegations against Brandenburg
- June, 1999 Bob Brandenburg died
- July, 1999 Archbishop advises Diocesan Council about allegations against Brandenburg
- May, 2000 Archbishop's report to Synod
- "Expressed deep sorrow over the occurrence of sexual abuse"
 - Pamphlet circulated to clergy, Church workers and parishioners about how to report sexual abuse allegations
 - Sexual abuse helpline established
 - Diocesan Response Group guidelines to be reviewed
- Sept, 2000 Diocesan Child protection guidelines issued:
- Child protection Policies
 - Code of Conduct
 - Compulsory notification by Church Workers
- July 2001 Diocesan Council:
- Police check becomes mandatory for all Church workers whose work is associated with children

- Diocesan Council passed a reviewed set of guidelines governing the work of the Diocesan Response Group.
- Feb, 2002 Media statement released by Diocese inviting victims of sexual abuse to come forward for support
- June, 2002 The Rev'd Don Owers advises Diocesan Council of his concerns re Bob Brandengurg
- July, 2002 Diocesan Council establishes a Sexual Abuse Task Group in response to recommendations that there be a review of Church procedures with respect to sexual abuse allegations.
- August, 2002 Sexual Abuse Task group Interim report to Diocesan Council
- Sept, 2002 Sexual Abuse Task Group verbal report to Diocesan Council
- October, 2002 Sexual Abuse Task Group reports to Diocesan Council.
Recommendations:
- acknowledgement of Bob Brandenburg's actions
 - recommends that expression of regret should be made to boys who are victims and to those associated with them
 - Regret/ apology should be made to the Adelaide community
 - Commitment to safety of children reiterated
 - Asserts unacceptability of sexually harassing and abusive behaviour
- April, 2003 A report from the General Synod Task group was received by the Diocese
- May, 2003 Education processes for ordinands, clergy and Church workers updated by the Ministry Development Council; an exploration of screening processes undertaken also by MDC.
- May, 2003 Media reportage on the Bob Brandenburg case.