

MEDIA RELEASE FROM ARCHBISHOP IAN GEORGE

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For immediate release · tbc

CHURCH ACTS ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

The Diocese of Adelaide in the Anglican Church has called on people to come forward to seek help and support if they have been victims of sexual misconduct and/or abuse from within the church.

Making the plea, Archbishop Ian George says we are deeply concerned for people who are often reluctant to revisit circumstances which have had such a destructive impact on their lives.

"The church has processes in place to help people who have suffered in the past.

"We are ready to deal with their own experience both personally and confidentially."

Archbishop George says the church acknowledges that over the years there have been incidents involving sexual misconduct by members of the clergy and church workers.

"We regret this deeply. It is totally unacceptable to the church.

"But we hope that by reporting abuse, even if it happened a long time ago, people will be helped and healed and at the same time make the church a safer place."

Archbishop George says brochures outlining the church's concerns have been distributed to parishes and Anglican organizations throughout the Diocese for some time.

"We recognize that we have not always handled these matters well in the past, but a great deal of work has been done to make our process appropriate and helpful, and accessible."

He says the Anglican Diocese has established Diocesan selection procedures and training programs for people working with children.

People wanting to report or discuss incidents involving sexual misconduct and/or abuse should contact the Diocesan Response Person on the confidential Helpline 8305 9383.

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For further information: Archbishop Ian George 0413 055 644