

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR USE BY COMPENSATION PANEL ONLY

OUTLINE OF MAKING AND PROCESSING APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION

1. The prospective Applicant makes a complaint to the Commissioner as to sexual abuse perpetrated by any priest, lay person or religious who is or was under the control of the Archbishop of Melbourne.
2. Where -
 - (a) the Commissioner finds that abuse occurred;
 - (b) the Applicant applies (by way of the relevant Application Form) for compensation in respect of that abuse -the Panel will commence processing the application with the view to determining the appropriate amount of compensation to be recommended to the Archbishop for payment to the Applicant.
3. Upon the Applicant having given the relevant consent, the Commissioner will provide to the Panel a report dealing with -
 - (i) his finding as to whether the Applicant was a victim of sexual abuse;
 - (ii) the facts and circumstances on which he based such findings;
 - (iii) any material provided by the Applicant to the Commissioner as to the effect of the abuse upon the Applicant.

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4. The Panel will invite the Applicant to provide it with material going to the consequences of the abuse on or to the Applicant. Ordinarily, such material will be provided in writing. The Panel may request the Applicant to provide further information.
5. The Panel will determine what is the appropriate amount of compensation it recommends be paid to the Applicant by the Archbishop. In order to minimise stress on the Applicant, the Panel will avoid formal hearings, but it may be appropriate for it to hold a meeting with the Applicant.
6. Upon the Panel deciding what amount of compensation should be recommended, it will inform the Applicant and if the Applicant informs the Panel that he or she intends to accept that amount in full discharge of any claim he or she may have against the Archbishop and the Archdiocese, the Panel will forward its recommendation to the Archbishop.
7. Upon receiving the recommendation, the Archbishop will pay the amount recommended to the Applicant upon an appropriate release.
8. If the Applicant decides not to accept the recommendation or the offer by the Archbishop, the Applicant's legal rights (if any) as against the Archbishop and the Archdiocese will not be in any way affected by the application having been made or processed.

28 February, 1997