



Scenario

The complainant wrote to the PSO and claimed that he was abused by the nuns at a catholic orphanage he was sent to as a child.

The complainant stated that because his mother was Aboriginal he was taken from his parents and lodged at the orphanage as a ward of the state. The complainant stated that when he enquired about his family he was told by the nuns that his father had abandoned his family and his mother and siblings had died in a car crash. He also stated that during his 6 years at the orphanage his wellbeing and education were neglected. He claimed that he was often put down by the nuns, not fed properly and not encouraged in his education. He stated that he later discovered that his mother and siblings were alive.

The complainant also disclosed that at 10 years of age he was transferred to a boy's home run by a Catholic Brothers order. He stated that during this time, on one school holiday, he was sent to a farm to work and that during that stay he was sexually abused by the farm owner who was a middle aged single male person. He stated that when he disclosed the abuse to the Brothers he was accused of lying.



Scenario

The complainant called the PSO and claimed that he had been abused by two Brothers from a Catholic Order whilst a student at a Catholic school in the early 1960s.

The complainant alleged that he had been sexually abused by Brother A. He stated that on the first occasion he was sent to Brother A's office for misbehaviour and that during this time the Brother emerged from the shower partially clothed and engaged him in a conversation about masturbation.

The complainant further disclosed that on a later date he was again sent to Brother A's office for misbehaviour and on this occasion the Brother emerged from the shower naked and encouraged the complainant to fondle his penis. The complainant stated that he refused to do so after which the Brother became aggressive and threatened him if he disclosed the incident. The complainant stated that he was bullied by Brother A and other Brothers at school from that time.

The complainant further stated that during a soccer match at school Brother B verbally abused him in front of other students and deliberately whipped him across the face with the metal chain attached to his whistle. The complainant stated that the incident raised a welt across his face that was noticed by his parents.



Scenario

The complainant wrote to the PSO and claimed that a Parish Priest had maintained a long term sexual relationship with his wife.

The complainant also alleged that the relationship was abusive in that the Parish Priest had exploited his position of trust to encourage his wife to engage in the relationship at a time when he knew that the complainant and his wife were having marital problems.

The complainant further alleged that the relationship was common knowledge in the Parish and when it had been revealed to him it caused he and his wife to separate and it fractured his family. The complainant provided copies of hand written sexually explicit love letters, post cards etc. allegedly written by the Parish Priest to his wife which were recently discovered by his daughter. The discovery of the correspondence had triggered the complaint.

The Parish is a small/intimate parish. The complainant is a well-known identity in the Parish. He is a long term volunteer who donates a considerable amount of time to help manage the Parish.



Scenario

The complainant called the PSO and claimed that she had been abused by nuns at a Catholic reformatory for girls in the late 1950's.

The complainant stated that she had been forced to enter the reformatory by her father who was concerned for her wellbeing as she had been involved with a boy when she was 14 years of age. She stated that she had spent 7 months at the reformatory during which time she lived in a dormitory group setting with 11 other girls and a 'Group Mother' (nun).

The complainant stated that when she arrived at the reformatory the nuns forcefully stripped her clothing off her in the bathroom to inspect her for lice. She stated that the nuns often verbally abused her and physically assaulted her by hitting her on the head with a ruler and, at times, holding her head under water to wash her hair. The complainant also stated that the nuns forced her to work in an industrial laundry on mornings and afternoons and often made her scrub floors and pathways as punishment.

The complainant also stated that she had been raped by an 'Italian man' who worked at the laundry.



Scenario

The complainant spoke with the local Vicar for Clergy and disclosed that the Parish Priest had been sending her concerning text messages. She stated that after a recent Sunday mass she had a conversation with the PP about his pending holiday to Africa, his homeland. She stated that during that conversation she had flippantly suggested that the PP bring her a small gift from Africa. When the PP queried what sort of gift she would like the complainant jokily said "a strong African man". She stated that the PP responded "I am already here". The complainant further stated that later that day she received a text message from the PP making a sexual advance towards her. She stated that she ignored the message but the PP continued to send her more messages which became increasingly sexually explicit.



Scenario

The PSO received a letter from the Principal of a Parish Catholic Primary School detailing allegations that a Priest relieving at a Parish had verbally and emotionally abused a female teacher. The complaint stated that the teacher had brought her grade 5 class (10 years old) to the church to visit with the PP as part of their religious education class. She stated that the PP fiercely reprimanded a girl for talking and two boys were sent from the church for minor misbehaviour (giggling). She stated that at the end of the class the PP raised with her the behaviour of the students in the presence of the class. She stated that the PP spoke harshly about the students and her ability to manage the class stating that she “was the worst teacher he had ever seen”, she was “useless” and that she should be “sacked”. The teacher stated that the students were embarrassed and that she was shocked, deeply offended and upset by the PP’s remarks.



Scenario

The PSO received a call from a Priest relieving at a local Parish. The PP advised that he received a concerning disclosure from the parents of a 17 year old male member of the Parish Youth Group. He advised that the parents stated that after Sunday mass a male Youth Group Leader had made a sexual advance towards their son and later had also sent a number of sexually explicit text messages to him. The PP advised that he had made some enquiries about the Youth Group Leader and had discovered that he is 26 years of age but is developmentally delayed. He advised that the Leader also has a history of concerning behaviour towards children which had been the subject of police prosecution and which necessitated that the Leader be chaperoned on a visit to Sydney during the last World Youth Day celebration.



Scenario

The PSO received a call from members of a Parish Council notifying of an incident which occurred at a Parish after school child care centre. The Council members advised that the child care centre shares facilities with a Parish workshop which is often manned by volunteers. There are only one set of toilets for the centre which are located at the workshop end of the facilities. The members advised that at the time of the incident a male volunteer was in the workshop when a 5 year old boy had made his way by himself through the workshop to the toilets. At this time the child carer noticed that the male volunteer was in the toilet with the boy and the door was partly closed. When the carer approached the toilet she observed that the male person was holding the boy around the waist and lifting him up to reach the sink to wash his hands. The carer also observed that the boy had his penis exposed outside of his shorts.



Scenario

The PSO received a call from a Parish Priest notifying of an incident which occurred in the Parish Samoan Youth Group. He advised that the Youth Group Leader had notified him that at a recent Youth Group BBQ two 15 year old girls had been inappropriately touched by a visiting Samoan music personality. The Youth Group Leader advised that the two girls had approached her after the BBQ and disclosed the incidents. Both girls stated that during a group photograph with the visitor he had grabbed one of the girls on the backside and fondled the other's breast. Both girls were disturbed by the incidents.



Scenario

The PSO received a call from a male complainant alleging that a Parish Priest had sexually abused him in the Parish presbytery. The complainant stated that he had recently been released from prison and having no means had approached the PP for assistance. The complainant stated that the PP invited him to stay in the presbytery with him overnight. He stated that the PP took him out for dinner and during the evening he and the PP had become drunk. He further stated that the PP took advantage of him by engaging him in oral sex. The complainant stated that he fled from the presbytery in the early morning. When queried about the allegations the PP confirmed that the complainant had stayed in the presbytery overnight but denied the sexual allegation.



Scenario

The PSO received an email message from a parishioner raising concerns about content on his Parish Priest's Facebook page. He advised that the PP had invited him to join his Facebook page and that his young daughter had found lewd content on the page including photographs of naked men.