



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 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.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



The complainant called the PSO and claimed that he had been sexually abused by a Priest in the 1970s. He stated that the Priest was a close friend of his parents who were dedicated catholics and that the Priest often visited the family home.

He disclosed that the Priest had arranged with his parents to take him and another boy from his school on a camping trip. He stated that during the camping trip the Priest had encouraged the boys to go skinny dipping and had joined them in doing so. He stated that whilst skinny dipping the Priest has become playful and wrestled with the boys in the water. The complainant also stated that the Priest slept in the same tent as the boys.

The complainant disclosed that on the first night the Priest had slept in a position between the two boys and had hugged him close in a 'spooning' position. He stated that he was uncomfortable with the embrace and had moved away from the Priest.

He further disclosed that on the second night the Priest had slept in a position beside the other boy, hugged him close in a 'spooning' position and had anal intercourse with the boy. The complainant stated that he had never disclosed these incidents and was unsure if the other boy had done so.

- Towards Healing
- Integrity in Ministry
- Other

Issues:



A Priest relieving at a Parish is told by concerned parents that their 17 year old son has been sexually propositioned by a male Youth Group leader who is 26 yrs of age. The proposition was made after mass one Sunday and although the 17 year old rebuffed the proposition he has been receiving unwanted text messages.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:

SCENARIO



A Youth Group Coordinator called the PSO and notified that two 16 and 17 year old female youth group members had disclosed that they had been inappropriately (sexually) touched by a male person at a recent youth group event. The incidents involved a local entertainer who had been invited to the BBQ but who is not a member of the youth group or parish. The Coordinator reported that the girls were upset by the incidents but did not want to take any further action. The girls were particularly concerned about their families finding out about the incidents.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



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.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



At a parish staff party during which alcohol was consumed a Priest touched an adult female staff member ("X") on the breast, grabbed her arm and tried to cuddle and kiss her. The Priest grabbed X's hand and placed it on his knee. X pulled her hand away. The Priest hit X on the back, which caused bruising. X was going to call the Police, but at the time refrained from doing so. X then reported the matter to another Priest.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:

SCENARIO



An adult female person ("H") advised the PSO that a Priest known to her visited her house one evening and helped H move furniture. They then both consumed some alcohol. H had an adult female housemate present at the time.

The Priest was unable to drive home because he had considered that he had had too much to drink, so it was decided that he would sleep on the couch. H was awoken by a scream from her housemate's bedroom. The Priest had walked into the housemate's bedroom naked and exposed himself.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



A Conference was attended by Catholic Clergy and Religious in Australia and lay persons.

At approximately 11:00pm one evening during the conference Y went to the hotel room of Father A to deliver a bottle of wine to him.

Y was a married man of 20 years with six children.

Both Y and Father A sat opposite each other with a table between them. Father A opened the bottle of wine and poured a drink for both he and Y. Y was dressed in a suit, which he had worn to the dinner that evening. He did not take his suit coat off, but at one stage he undid his top button and loosened his tie. He did not take his shoes off. Father A was dressed in trousers and his clerical shirt. Their conversation over the next hour was about various aspects of tribunal work and the conference. Father A then asked Y, "Would you like me to rub your back?" Y was taken aback by the abrupt change in conversation, felt extremely awkward by Father A's suggestion of a back rub and replied that it was late and immediately left.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



The complainant reported to the PSO that the Parish Priest regularly asks parishioners for money. He said the requests seem to be more frequent around Christmas when the priest likes to travel to his home country.

The complainant stated that parishioners had also been asked to donate money for poor families in the Priest's home country and that some have agreed to make monthly financial contributions.

The complainant is also concerned that the Priest has be-friended a female parishioner who recently sought support during her marriage separation. The complainant has been told that the female has been seen at the Priest's residence.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:



A cleaner employed by the Parish encountered a 14 year old boy staying at the Parish Priest residence.

The cleaner reported seeing the boy on about three occasions, and it appears the boy stays with the Priest for several nights at a time and usually on school holidays.

The Priest recently asked the cleaner to change the sheets in another spare room because a female parishioner from his previous Parish had to stay overnight whilst travelling through town.

- Towards Healing**
- Integrity in Ministry**
- Other**

Issues:
