

CONGREGATIONAL PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Purpose:- To receive, process, resolve and review allegations of sexual and physical abuse on the part of Congregational members and employees.

- To develop a proactive response to allegations including development of policy and process.

Membership: 2 Congregation members (one a member of the Leadership Team)
1 psychologist/social worker
1 solicitor
representative of faith based community

Adviser: professional investigator

Functions:

1. Organise legal and factual investigations with the assistance/co-operation of police and statutory bodies. Report assessment of situations and recommendations to the Congregational Leader.
2. Organise and/or conduct evaluation of person accused.
3. Make recommendations for treatment of offenders.
4. Organise offer of pastoral/counselling assistance for families of victims.
5. Assist in researching relevant criminal and civil statutes and gaining compliance with these.
6. Assist in setting strategy for any court cases, including selection of criminal counsel in consultation with insurers.
7. Formulate a media policy with the assistance of a media consultant.
8. Relate to the Diocesan and Provincial Resource Groups particularly to develop a resource bank including: names of experts locally and in other regions; treatment facilities - types, modalities and locations, articles/books/videos.
9. Monitor and review cases.
10. Develop other relevant policies and make recommendations for strategic planning in this area.

The initial brief of this committee is also to provide to the April meeting of the Leadership Team an initial budget for the first 4 - 6 months of the committee.

Authority Limits

May be the same as the recommendations made to the Leadership Team - awaiting response.

Reporting Relationships

May be the same as recommendations - awaiting response.