

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING

When you approach the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS), we will:

- a) Listen to your story. You will be provided professional support to support you as you relay your story. We will listen to your story in your own timeframe. We will make a record of your story for you if you want this.
- b) Explain to you how to report the crime to police (and assist you to make the report) if you wish. You can change your mind at any stage in the future and report to police yourself.
- c) Whether or not you choose to make a report to police, we will make our own report as we have a legal obligation to do so. We will provide your details to police and also inform them of your wishes with respect to police involvement.
- d) Provide you with information about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- e) Encourage you to consider obtaining legal advice about the options available to you including;
  - o Criminal investigation by police
  - o Request for reparations without legal proceedings against the Church
  - o A legal claim against the Church
  - o Pastoral care response from the Church
- f) Inform you of Survivor Groups for support that you may be interested in.
- g) Offer ongoing counselling by a qualified person of your choice, paid for by the Archdiocese.
- h) Provide a contact person in the Archdiocese.
- i) If an investigation/inquiry process is required we will explain this to you. Some of the issues explained will include:
  - o That the Archdiocese cannot look into the matter/investigate until clearance is received from police (as the Archdiocese does not want to prejudice police enquiries).
  - o If police are investigating then the Archdiocese will fully cooperate and assist police
  - o Support available to you during any investigation/inquiry process
  - o How the inquiries are conducted and who may be involved
  - o Anticipated timeline for such inquiries.
- j) Discuss what information the Archdiocese can provide about the alleged perpetrator or witnesses who engage in any inquiry process in accordance with any privacy laws and confidentiality principles
- k) Discuss the importance of confidentiality to be maintained during any investigation to ensure dignity of all involved and integrity of the inquiry process.
- l) Advise you of the Archdiocese's requirement to notify its insurer (if any) and perhaps lawyers if required
- m) Work with you to achieve a timely, compassionate and appropriate outcome
- n) Discuss additional responses that you may wish to pursue
  - o Meet with the Archbishop
  - o Spiritual supports - spiritual direction, prayer, Mass, apology
  - o Any support you have identified that may be responsive to your situation.

Contacts:

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