

BISHOPS COMMITTEE
FOR
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

REPORT

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

27 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 1995

BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REPORT

1. MATTERS RAISED BY CATHOLIC CHURCH INSURANCES

Catholic Church Insurances Ltd will provide a report on Insurances matters concerning Professional Standards for the Bishops in time for the next meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. C.C.I. have also engaged the services of a Media Consultant to assist the personnel of C.C.I. in responding to enquires from the Media. The service is also available to Dioceses and Religious Congregations. A Report is also being prepared by C.C.I. to provide advice on the safe retention of files held by Dioceses and Religious Congregations in dealing with disclosures of Sexual Assault by Catholic Church personnel.

2. "SEXUAL ABUSE BY PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS:

Attached to this Report is a draft of a document entitled: "Sexual Abuse by Priests and Religious: a Statement of Principles". Although much consultation has already taken place in the preparation of this present draft, it must still be treated as a draft. Hence, in discussing the draft with your advisers, kindly ensure that it remains a reserved document. Comments and advice on the document should be forwarded to Bishop Geoff Robinson prior to 31 January, 1996.

3. REVISION OF THE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

A process has commenced for a review of the procedures which are to be used by Dioceses and Religious Congregations in dealing with allegations of sexual misconduct. Meanwhile, the procedures which were approved by Conference in April 1992 remain in effect.

4. MEETING OF ENGLISH SPEAKING EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES DEALING WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY CLERGY.

Arrangements are being made for a meeting of representatives from English speaking Episcopal Conferences, dealing with child sexual abuse by clergy. It is anticipated that the meeting will be held in Chicago, U.S.A. from 7-10 May 1996. Bishop Peter Connors, Father Brian Lucas, Sister Angela Ryan, C.S.B. and Mr Laurie Rolls (C.C.I.) will represent this Conference.

5. WORKSHOP AT THE CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, PSYCHOTHERAPISTS AND CLERGY

Bishop Geoff Robinson, Father John Usher and Sister Angela Ryan, C.S.B. will conduct a workshop at a Conference on Sexual Exploitation by Health Professionals, Psychotherapists and Clergy to be held in Sydney in April, 1996.

Most P JConnors
Secretary
29 July 1995