



# Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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### A message from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference to the Catholic people of Australia November 29, 2002

In our concern to respond adequately to issues of sexual abuse within the Church, We, the Bishops of Australia, assembled in plenary session

- renew our resolve to follow our agreed procedures for responding decisively and compassionately to complaints of abuse by Church personnel;
- reaffirm all our previous commitments to victims and the process of healing;
- insist that our procedures be just to all parties and that the presumption of innocence be at all times respected;
- accept the need for accountability and consistency in all that we do
- propose that the National Committee for Professional Standards continue to assess and refine these procedures

We still face many challenges, but our procedures are proving effective and much has been accomplished.

Contact: Archbishop Philip Wilson through Joan Atkinson on **REDACTED**

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