

News

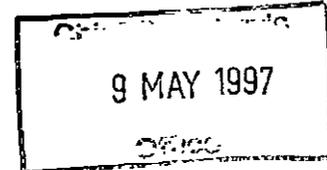
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THE SALVATION ARMY COMMENTS ON ALLAN SMITH COURT CASE

The hearing in the Perth court today has allowed us all to hear the dreadful results on victims when they were sexually abused some 25 - 40 years ago. This sexual abuse when the perpetrator was a Salvation Army officer fills us with horror.

The Salvation Army first became aware of the abuse perpetrated by Allan Smith on some of his young charges 23 years ago. However, it is only now that the full story has come to light, both in terms of the number of victims, the number of offences and the seriousness of those offences.

The Salvation Army has recently commenced a Pastoral Response Unit in Western Australia to assist the victims of sexual abuse and a copy of the guide lines for this unit is attached.

Another result of the disturbing behaviour that has been described in court today is that The Salvation Army now has instituted safe guards to ensure that all officers, employees or volunteers, who work with young people, possess a clear understanding of the meaning of sexual abuse and personal moral standards are such that they would never contemplate or tolerate such behaviour in themselves or others.

Sexual abuse can leave emotional scars that will affect the victims for many years if not decades and The Salvation Army will do all it possibly can to help the victims ease the pain.

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