

Study of Reported Child Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Each Diocese and Church body undertaking youth work should introduce a system of selection and accreditation of people involved in youth work that complies with the *Model System for the Selection and Accreditation for Lay Parish Church Workers* approved by the Standing Committee as a resource in October 2006, if they have not already done so.

Recommendation 2

Each Diocese should ensure that its system for the licensing of clergy and for the selection and accreditation of leaders of youth groups includes a check of the National Register if it has not already done so.

Recommendation 3

Each Diocese should review its protocols for youth work, and where applicable, the role of servers, to ensure opportunities for adults and young people to be alone together in contexts that would allow sexual activity to occur without discovery are restricted to situations of unplanned necessity, and where necessary amend its protocols to ensure that this requirement is explicitly stated.

Recommendation 4

The Professional Standards Commission should review *Faithfulness in Service* as to whether it adequately addresses the risk of sexual abuse in youth work in parishes and other organizations such as CEBS and in the relationship between clergy and servers.

Recommendation 5

Each Diocese should review its safe ministry policies and structures to ensure that a person or persons other than a member of the clergy or their spouse are responsible for ensuring that *Faithfulness in Service* and other Diocesan protocols are enforced in each parish.

Recommendation 6

Each Diocese should ensure that there is adequate education of church workers concerning the risks of child sexual abuse in any organization that works with children and young people, and in particular, the risk of abuse of boys demonstrated by this study.

Recommendation 7

The Professional Standards Commission in conjunction with Professional Standards Directors' Network develops a common form for the recording of information about child sexual abuse.

Recommendation 8

All dioceses should develop protocols for a pastoral response to victims of child sexual abuse who may make complaint to the Church many years after the events occurred. This pastoral response should include elements of apology, reparation and payment of counselling expenses as is appropriate in the circumstances of each case. The Professional Standards Commission should assist the dioceses by developing a recommended model for best practice.

Implementation of Recommendations in Tasmania

The Anglican Diocese of Tasmania has in place a program called Safe Church Communities, previously known as Safe Ministry, which addresses Recommendations 1-6. The Diocese has committed both human and financial resources to ensure that parishes and church organizations are able to meet the requirements of the program and to provide safe and healthy environments. The Pastoral Support and Assistance Program (PSAAS) which has been available since 2003 satisfies Recommendation 8. The Diocesan Director of Professional Standards is liaising with the Directors in other Dioceses to make sure that we can comply with Recommendation 7.