

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

You are entitled and encouraged to have the benefit of whatever support you need. This includes legal support which may help you to feel that you have a clear understanding about complaints processes.

You are also encouraged to seek legal consultation in relation to your rights under Civil Law.

CONTACTING THE POLICE

Child sexual abuse is a Crime. South Australia has legislation that indicates that historical child sexual abuse matters can be criminally prosecuted. We strongly encourage you to contact the Police. If you would like support in contacting the Police, SA PSO can help.



WHAT IF I HAVE A GRIEVANCE WITH THE PROCESS?

If you are unhappy with the way you were treated or feel that the matter did not follow the proper process be welcome to contact the SA PSO and speak with a staff member.

Our Contact Details

(08) 8210 8275

receptionprofstandards@adelaide.catholic.org.au

There are specific services that provide information, support, advocacy and counselling for adult survivors of sexual, physical and other abuses. Many of these services are free of charge and provide confidential support and information. Regardless of how recent or how long ago the sexual or other abuse occurred, consider contacting a support service to seek counselling and/or other supports.

Relationships Australia (SA) - 1800 998 187

Victim Support Services - 08 8231 5626

www.victim.sa.org

1800RESPECT - National Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Counselling service 1800 737 732

www.1800respect.org.au

Yarrow Place - 08 8226 8777

1800 817 421 (country calls)

Emergency a/hrs - 08 2886 8787

Royal Commission Inst. Responses to

Child Sex Abuse 1800 099 340

Police - 11 444



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OFFICE**
39 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
OFFICE**

WHAT DO WE DO?

WHAT IS THE SA PSO AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The purpose of the Professional Standards Office (SA PSO) is to encourage and support the Catholic Church in South Australia to regularly review, develop and implement safe and ethical practices and respond professionally and with compassion to disclosures of adult survivors of emotional, physical and child sexual abuse and current incidents of adult boundary violations and misconduct.



OUR FUNCTION

The functions of the SA PSO are:

- To support adult survivors of emotional, physical and sexual child abuse and Church Authorities to appropriately and efficiently resolve concerns and complaints about Church personnel and activities
- To establish safe and ethical practices and responses to abuse and misconduct as professional and cultural norms within the activities of the Church
- To empower Church Authorities in seeking to prevent further incidents of abuse and misconduct.

The SA PSO is not a counselling or support service. However, due to the complex nature of child abuse, child sexual abuse and adults who have been subjected to boundary violations and misconduct, the office deems it has a duty to ensure that clients are safe and adult survivors coming forward have adequate supports in place.

PROCESSES WE ADMINISTER:

- Towards Healing
- Integrity in Ministry
- Integrity in the Service of the Church
- Records Service
- Training.



MAKING A COMPLAINT OF ABUSE

The Catholic Church in Australia acknowledges that a number of clergy and religious and other Church personnel have abused children, young people and vulnerable adults who have been in their pastoral care. The Church is committed to offering whatever healing is possible to victims of abuse and in preventing abuse in the future.

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING MAKING A COMPLAINT OF ABUSE YOU CAN:

- Contact the SA PSO to speak with someone about making a formal complaint
- Ask for more information on any of our services.

If you are not sure whether your concerns constitute abuse or misconduct you can contact the SA PSO for assistance in identifying the appropriate service for your concerns.



All grievances or complaints against Church personnel that may amount to a criminal offence should be reported directly to the Police for investigation.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of abuse by Church personnel you should **report the matter directly to the Police** for investigation.

Alternatively, you can contact the SA PSO and we will assist you to report the matter to the Police.