

In Good Faith FOUNDATION

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONAL
ABUSE RECOVERY

ANNUAL REPORT
2018 – 2019

help health hope



CONTENTS

- 1** **ABOUT IGFF**
Our vision, mission and history.
- 2** **OUR WORK: ORGANISATION OVERVIEW**
- 3** **CEO'S CORNER**
Clare Leaney
- 5** **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Neil Woodger
- 6** **2019 MVC PUBLIC WITNESS AWARD**
- 7** **ADVOCACY MANAGER**
Rachel Last
- 8** **STUDENT PLACEMENT**
Mikayla Burge
- 9** **ADMIN ASSISTANT**
Esther Le Couteur
- 10** **2020 AND BEYOND**

OUR VISION

Together we will see the restoration and recovery of survivors of institutional abuses in Australia.

OUR MISSION

To achieve justice, recovery and ongoing support for the wellbeing of survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses.

ABOUT IN GOOD FAITH FOUNDATION

Founded in 1997 as In Good Faith and Associates, IGFF continues to provide specialized support services to survivors, families and communities impacted by religious institutional abuses. In 2018/19 IGFF has continued the work of our Founder Helen Last in providing critical advocacy and support for an emerging number of Survivors reporting historical religious institutional abuses. Helen's earlier work as a national sexual violence prevention consultant for CASA saw a comprehensive response developed that continues to inform the practice of IGFF today. In recent times, IGFF has expanded our areas of service provision, diversified our responses and engaged with an increasingly varied client base.

Our referral network has continued to expand, primarily focusing on assisting Survivors to enhance their own sustainability and resilience. This network includes practitioners in fields such as mental and medical health, social welfare, legal advice, police, resources, community development and pastoral care.

In 2007 IGFF and Lewis Holdway Lawyers combined to co-ordinate 'The Melbourne Victims' Collective' (MVC), which remains a vital part of our community engagement services. In 2014 The MVC introduced an Annual Public Witness Award to recognise the notable contributions of specific individuals to public awareness raising and campaigning for survivors. In 2019 we invited the Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter A. Comensoli, as our guest speaker to address members.

In 2012, the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations commenced and we saw demand for our services expand exponentially. Throughout 2012-13 we initiated and presented education forums in key Victorian locations to build community awareness and engagement with this critical Government initiative. In August 2013, IGFA transitioned into the charitable structure of In Good Faith Foundation (IGFF) coinciding with our first Federal Government grant to provide comprehensive Royal Commission Support Services which continues in Redress Scheme Support Service. Since 2016 IGFF has received one-off grants from the Victorian Government and in 2017 IGFF received ACNC's Registered Charity Tick of Approval.

OUR WORK THIS YEAR: ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

SESSIONS

786

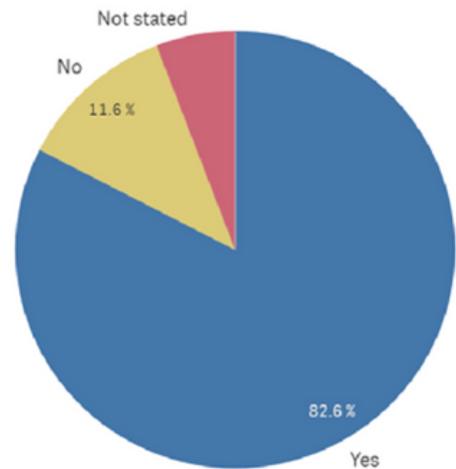
IGFF continues to provide much-needed support services across a diversity of clients and needs.

These are just some of our annual statistics for 2018-19.

ATTENDANCES

952

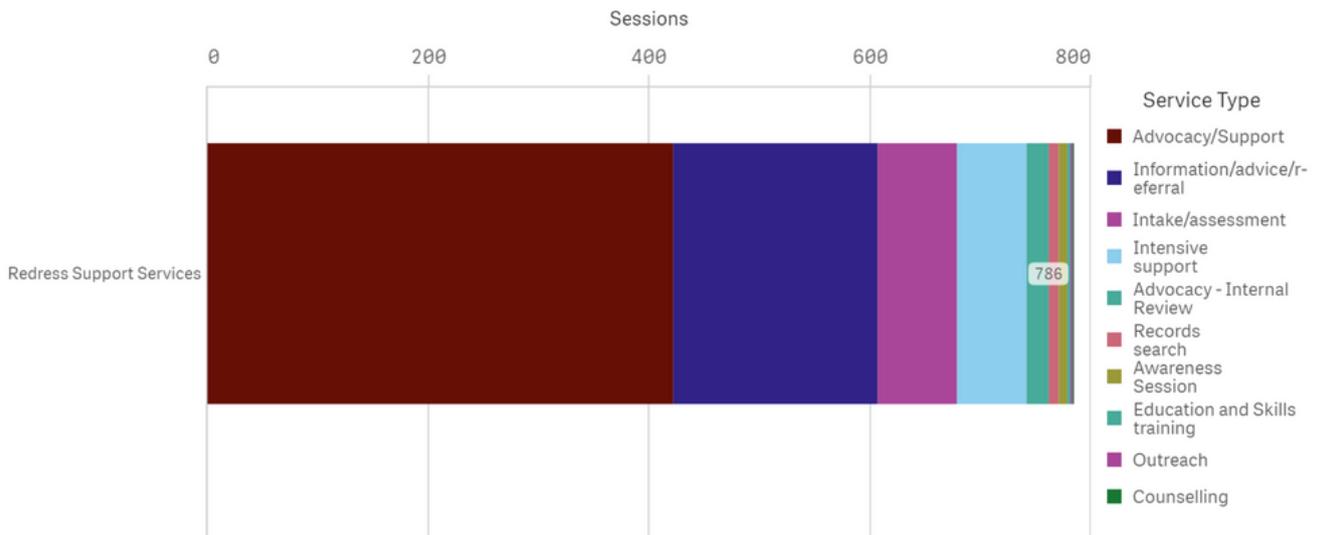
Individual Clients and Support Persons by Disability Status -> Description



AVERAGE SESSIONS PER CLIENT

5.5

Clients and Support Persons Sessions by Activity and Service Type



CEO'S CORNER

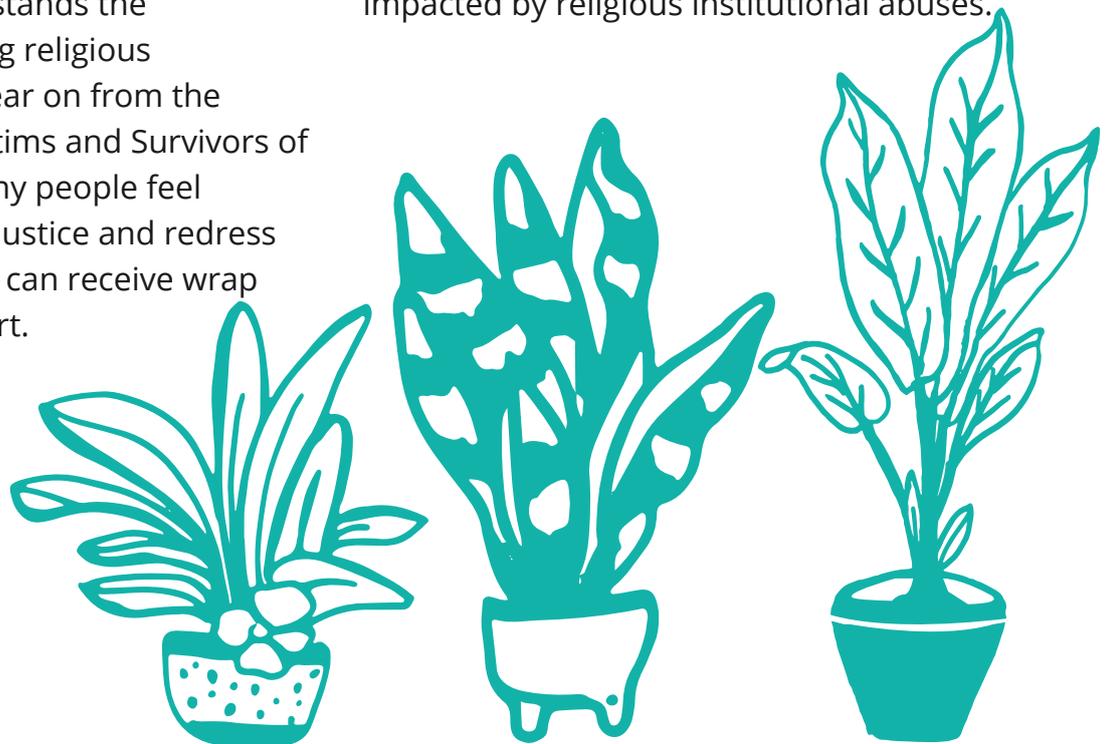
CLARE LEANEY

2018/19 has seen IGFF experience significant growth both in terms of services provided and clients receiving service provision with an over 60 per cent increase. IGFF has continued in its vital work providing case management, advocacy and support to individuals, families and communities impacted by religious institutional abuse. Alongside our frontline service delivery, IGFF has expanded our community engagement and public awareness raising work; complemented by our advocacy work lobbying for systemic and institutional change, legislative reforms and development of survivor focused policies and procedures.

Our growth as a nationally recognised support service and charity, has also highlighted the need for a specific, federally funded support service for institutional Survivors that specifically recognises, responds to and understands the complexities of surviving religious institutional abuse. A year on from the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Abuse, many people feel encouraged to explore justice and redress pathways knowing they can receive wrap around care and support.

IGFF has been particularly active throughout the past year engaging in legislative feedback to the NSW Government regarding the Seal of Confession; assisting survivors to make comment to the Victorian Mental Health Royal Commission and providing our own detailed written submission; attending Department of Social Services forums and a number of roundtables; coordinating the MVC and supporting individual survivors advocating for change in their local communities.

Whilst there remains plenty for IGFF to achieve in the years to come, we can remain confident working to achieve the mission and vision passed on by our Founder, Helen Last. Our work extends far beyond the visible legislative changes and institutional responses – it is the commendable and compassionate support offered to survivors, families and communities impacted by religious institutional abuses.



CEO'S CORNER

CLARE LEANEY

FINANCIALS AND FUTURE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

DSS FUNDING

2018/19	– Royal Commission Interim Support Service	– \$56,830.00
2018/19	– Redress Support Service	– \$93,830.00

In October 2019 the Minister for Social Services, Senator Anne Ruston announced an additional \$11,000,000 in funding for the National Redress Scheme, of which \$5,000,000 was allocated for additional support service funding. IGFF remains confident that we will receive some 'surge' funding as part of this process.

DHHS FUNDING

CEO has successfully sought DHHS funding (2019/20) as a state-based support service. A total of \$100,000 was granted; monthly installments commenced in September 2019 with the CEO meeting relevant DHHS advisors to lobby for sustainable and recurring funding from the State Government.

MATCH-A-DONOR CAMPAIGN

In March 2019 we ran a highly successful Match – a – Donor campaign exceeding our target of raising \$20,000. IGFF will repeat this campaign in 2020 utilising the wider reaching Charidy model.

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

IGFF hopes to make this an annual campaign and Christmas event to celebrate our achievements throughout the year and recognize the work yet to be done.

LONG TERM FUNDS AND FUNDRAISING

- Individual Donors and Philanthropists
- Consultations and Fees For Service
- The Australian Communities Foundation
- The Australian Philanthropic Services
- Grant Opportunities
- The Funding Network



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NEIL WOODGER

Since succeeding Paul Holdway as President of the In Good Faith Foundation late last year I have been impressed by how the Foundation has developed. Moving into new premises at the Brunswick Business Incubator was a major step, literally giving past CEO and Founder Helen Last her house back, and allowing the staff to operate in a setting that is both professional and accessible. Thanks are due to Helen and her family for their generosity in making office accommodation available over so many years.

Other developments include the confirmation of IGFF as an agency that can continue to attract new workers by way of volunteers and students on placement from various educational settings. Service delivery, advocacy and supporting Survivors of institutional abuse is gathering momentum, and benefits from the work of experienced staff who always display a mature and professional attitude to their work. As most are aware, Helen Last has left the Foundation as an employee, and has established her own practice.

The Foundation has attracted attention and support from several funding bodies, especially at both State and Commonwealth levels. IGFF now has a brighter future financially, a consequence of the building of strong relationships with funding organisations known for their demanding requirements. As a result of these relationships, IGFF continues to formally acknowledge an increasing number of clients from areas outside Catholicism; a challenge for the upcoming year.

The Board of Directors is also undergoing change. We welcomed Angela Politis earlier this year. Angela has a substantial background in Human Resources management. Other people have expressed interest in joining the Board in 2020, potentially expanding the sets of skills necessary to ensure that the Directors are able to advise the CEO on a range of matters, HR, Media and Communications, and Legal Issues.

The Board and IGFF members acknowledge the patient guidance and support of Paul Holdway who leaves the Board after many years' service. At the final MVC meeting of 2019 Paul was formally thanked and given the 2019 MVC Annual Public Witness Award. We hope that he will be available to provide advice as needed.

Given the outlook for 2020 I am confident that IGFF will achieve one of its major aims, to be recognised as a *Centre for Excellence*. It is well on the way.



2019 MVC PUBLIC WITNESS AWARD

PAUL HOLDWAY



Paul has extensive experience in:

- Debt recovery
- Insolvency
- Commercial litigation
- Acting for Survivors of religious institutional abuses

In 2010 he received the Law Institute of Victoria's President's Award for Access to Justice.

We are truly thankful for his work with IGFF, as a former President of the Board, and as a tirelessly empathetic advocate.



"Whether you are the Archbishop or a victim makes no difference to me. I don't mind where you come from, it's your actions and what's just for everybody in the situation that counts.

I am extremely honoured to act for victims. I am honoured that they share their story with me and trust me with it.

For some people, it's one of the first times they have told it and I think it is incredibly courageous for them to come forward to share that."

ADVOCACY MANAGER'S REPORT

The field of Advocacy and Support for Survivors of Religious Institutional Abuse is an ever changing landscape. Now, more than ever, people are talking about the history of crimes against children and vulnerable adults; sharing examples of inadequate institutional responses; and questioning their understandings about the abuse of power dynamics.

As media suppression are lifted from high profile cases and the voices of Survivors ring through – change awareness about their needs is also being driven by contributors in the arenas of government, justice, therapeutic, education and social services fields. We are all empowered by the recommendations of Inquiries and Royal Commissions to provide more collective and diverse ways to improve Survivor outcomes. In Good Faith Foundation is a unique and specialised contributor to these important conversations between Survivors; their carers; support professionals; NGO and Government staff and decision makers.

At the frontline of IGFF support, clients report that a friendly staff member, answering each call with active listening skills, is a key component to reducing their sense of isolation and stigma. Second to this, we bring an effective knowledge base to the details of each clients' personal history that assists with re-interpreting their abuse experiences into pathways of therapeutic care referral and access to developing options for justice. Diverse clients present with all denominational backgrounds and range in age from their thirties to eighties.

IGFF Advocacy aims for service delivery that is respectful, efficient and wholistic; working with the strengths of each client and supporting self-empowerment at their chosen pace.

RACHEL LAST

During the past 12 months, this includes the provision of information and practical assistance for ongoing and emerging clients about the National Redress Scheme. It is so valuable to the field, that funding to most of the same DSS funded Royal Commission support services was transitioned. IGFF has also been given a number of opportunities to share our Survivor-centered practices within the development of Redress Scheme initiatives. In this regard, IGFF's Advocacy and Support extends nationally to clients in most states of Australia. So does an increasing referral network and regular communication with like-minded practitioners.

Some funding parameters increase the support workload where clients are suffering financially. They are running out of money for food and other essentials on a regular basis. Key partnerships being developed with community initiatives such as Lifeboat Geelong and associated St Vincent de Paul Conference demonstrate how stress and "battle fatigue" can be reduced for Survivors through practical and crisis assistance.

Sustainable service funding with the means to broker counselling would also reduce the advocacy workload by enabling localised therapeutic care to be organised at no cost to the Survivor and their care network. This vision, of increasing IGFF's means to provide for Survivors an expanding range of supports is in place for other organisations and remains a focus of lobbying efforts in 2020.

STUDENT PLACEMENT

MIKAYLA BURGE

I'm a third year Criminal Justice student from RMIT University and I've been on placement with In Good Faith Foundation since mid-September. This placement experience has shown me just how widespread the issue of religious institutional abuse is and how necessary services like IGFF are.

Being surrounded by this trauma-related work has taught me not only how strong Survivors are but how to be strong myself in working with such confronting material. In spite of how difficult a topic this often is for people to discuss, I now understand how important it is to keep the conversation going, so to speak, in order to acknowledge Survivors and their experiences and help them on their path to justice.

After my time at In Good Faith Foundation, I still maintain an interest in many other areas in the criminal justice field. However, pending my decision to undertake further study next year, this is certainly an area I would consider focusing on for research.

I sincerely want to thank everyone who I've worked with or met along the way – it's been amazing to get to know people whose lives revolve around this kind of work and I commend the efforts of In Good Faith Foundation, their partnering support services and Survivors. I will take what I've learnt and experienced here as I progress towards a career in the criminal justice field.





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Email Address

First Name

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ADMIN ASSISTANT

ESTHER LE COUTEUR

Having recently joined IGFF as the administration assistant, I feel extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn so much in a caring office providing such crucial services.

We have been working on building upon IGFF's online presence through regular posts on social media, continuing the *Everyday Courage* series on Survivors' experiences, minor accessibility updates to the website, and through establishing a regular newsletter. While there are so many constant changes in the field of religious institutional abuse, particularly with legal reform in Victoria and many high-profile cases, we are constantly working to find ways to raise IGFF's profile and the general public's awareness of Survivor advocacy. This is balanced by an awareness that so much of what we publish online has the potential to be triggering, and I am always learning more about maintaining the gentle, reliable IGFF voice.

Working alongside Clare, Rachel and Mikayla, attending the Melbourne Victims' Collective, and meeting clients and advocates is an incredible privilege. This role is teaching me how in everyday, consistent ways, people work for justice, access and care, fight for social and political change, and build hope and resilience in so many unquantifiable ways.

While there is always so much that needs to be done, seeing first-hand the strength of Survivor-focused advocacy is something I hope to be able to share with a wider audience through the coming year, particularly through bridging the gap between online and physical modes of building awareness and promoting our cause.

SUPPORT US INTO THE FUTURE

“The last eight years with the MVC has given me a reason to heal...”

– Survivor, 74 yrs

2020 AND BEYOND

In 2020 and well into our future, IGFF will continue to expand our operations recognizing not only the complexities and life challenges that clients face but also the need to ensure that existing structures, programs and services meet these increasing needs. In coming years IGFF will expand upon our vision for survivor care and support through the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Education Programs | – For practitioners, carers and professionals |
| Systemic and Institutional Changes | – Meaningful, survivor centric reform |
| Sponsorship and Patronage Programs | – Sustainable, long-term recognition for IGFF |
| Partnerships | – Responding to complex client needs |
| A Centre for Excellence | – Our vision for Recovery |

If you would like to know more about our organisation, or request to join our mailing list, please get in touch on **(03) 9940 1533** or email us at **igff@igff.org.au**.

To donate to us and help the recovery of Survivors, visit **igff.org.au/donate-now**.

