

# Government Announces Release of Report:

'Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse  
by Religious and Other Organisations'

# RALLY OF HOPE

## Victims seek Healing, Justice and Reforms!

Gather on the steps of Victorian Parliament House (to the left)

Wednesday 13 November (12pm to 2 pm)

Wear red arm bands or red clothing as symbols of sacrifice and hope.

Bring placards, banners and red balloons!

**Speakers:** Victims' groups, advocates, lawyers, clergy of integrity and health professionals.

**RALLY ORGANISERS:** In Good Faith and Associates (10am to 4pm) 03 9326 5991

**ON DAY OF RALLY:** 0430 339 739 **MEDIA COORDINATOR:** 0418 319 067 **EMAIL:** ingoodfaithassoc@gmail.com

Rallying together are these organisations and services:



Melbourne  
Victims  
Collective



**South Eastern CASA**  
Centre Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence



MOVING TOWARDS JUSTICE INC  
BALLARAT

# RALLY OF HOPE

**Join with us! 12pm to 2pm**

**Wednesday 13 November, 2013**

**Victorian Parliament House steps**

## **Government releases their Inquiry Report!**

### **WE SEEK SOCIAL REFORMS**

- 1) State and Church to safeguard children and monitor institutional responses
- 2) Provide restorative programs to repair victims, families and communities
- 3) Provide fully-funded counselling for trauma, grief, relationships; to victims, families and communities
- 4) Provide fully-funded support and advocacy groups to sustain recovery of victims, families and communities

### **WE SEEK PASTORAL REFORMS**

- 14) Victims organise meaningful public ceremony to receive apology from religious and other organisational leaders
- 15) Ceremonies of hope and recovery offered by clergy-of-integrity
- 16) Dedicated safe and sacred spaces designed by victims
- 17) Pastoral healing programs for victims, families and communities.
- 18) Vicar for Justice appointed to advocate for victims
- 19) Chaplain appointed for victims' care, welfare and special needs

### **WE SEEK EDUCATIONAL REFORMS**

- 5) Victim-led programs for religious institutions, organisations and communities on:
  - a. Clergy abuse history, causes and recognition
  - b. Betrayal of faith and subsequent impacts
  - c. Skills for supporting, referring and resourcing religious victims
- 6) Specialised education to prevent organisational bullying, cultures of secrecy, victimisation of whistleblowers
- 7) Independent child-protection training for religious institutions, organisations and communities
- 8) Training for religious personnel and organisations on police liaison, reporting and criminal processes

### **WE SEEK STRUCTURAL REFORMS**

- 20) Mandatory reporting by clergy, religious and lay personnel
- 21) 'Working with Children' reference checks for religious personnel reviewed by State
- 22) Religious institutions to fund State managed victim compensation scheme
- 23) Specific investigation into the Church's placement of offending religious and lay personnel in Victoria
- 24) Specific investigation into the handling of abuse cases by the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing Victoria
- 25) Ombudsman to advocate justice for past complainants to the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing Victoria
- 26) Victims represented in all reform processes

### **WE SEEK LEGAL REFORMS**

- 9) Review 'Deeds of Release' for proper compensation to victims
- 10) Fund victims' independent legal costs
- 11) Compensate with lifetime aid to victims
- 12) Review prosecution and sentencing of religious offenders
- 13) Parliament to lead legislative change to:
  - a. Amend Aiding and Abetting offences (Misprision of Felony) for authorities including religious who conceal sexual assaults of children and provide offenders with further access to children
  - b. Make priests and religious *employees* of Churches; holding both responsible for criminal actions (Vicarious Liability law)
  - c. Hold Church Property Trusts liable for victims' civil cases (Property Trust legislation and the "Ellis" Defence)
  - d. Make Church authorities a legal corporation that can be sued (Corporations law)
  - e. Allow for victims' historical abuse claims (Statute of Limitations)

**Further information: In Good Faith and Associates (10 am to 4 pm) Ph: 03 9326 5991**

**On Day of Rally: 0430 339 739 - Media Coordinator: 0418 319 067 - Email: [ingoodfaithassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ingoodfaithassoc@gmail.com)**