

Submission to the Legislation Committee  
Inquiry into the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2019  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace, PERTH 6005

Sub: Royal Commission into Institutional responses into Child sexual Abuse  
Re: Recommendation 7.3 and Recommendation 7.4

With reference to recommendation 7.3, and 7.4 I support reporting to Child Protection Authorities on “factual evidence”.

Why has the Catholic Church been singled out in connection with recommendation 7.3 (e) “people in religious ministry” not being offered consultation, as has been afforded to the other four groups? We do not condone any form of abuse of anyone by anyone. It is my understanding that the Catholic Church has accepted 98% of the recommendations of the Royal Commission’s report on child sexual abuse.

I am a Catholic and I believe that the Sacrament confession was instituted by the Lord himself, so it is DIVINE LAW. Nobody, certainly not the WA parliament has the right to change this law. **(Try changing a muslim law & see how that community will react!)**. The seal of Confession to a Catholic priest is sacred and 100% confidential. The Priest has to hear our confession, offer us advice/guidance & then *wipe the sin off his mind*. I expect total confidentiality in the Confessional, that is our fundamental right as Catholics. It amazes me that you did not recommend that Priests do in women who commit MURDER by killing humans when they have abortions!! Because “unborn” LIVES do not matter to you? They don’t talk!

This amendment unfairly targets the Catholic Church and Priests that only do good in the world. This is a community that normally turns the other cheek; that has *peaceful* demonstrations; that helps the poor & downtrodden; that believes in a GOD & have preachers who preach to the masses to do the right thing, to love, to obey, to follow in the footsteps of the Lord. This community does not preach JIHAD & promise 12 virgins for committing murder.

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia clearly states a separation of Church and State. You do your part and let our Catholic leaders do theirs.

A concerned West Australian Catholic,