

Vos Estis Lux Mundi

For Clergy and Religious: a brief summary of the key points of the reporting process of crimes of sexual abuse

- (1) Issued by Pope Francis on 1st June 2019 as universal Church law regarding the reporting of alleged abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by Clergy and Religious.
- (2) This process is to ensure that there is no cover-up of any complaint or allegation, and that there is a clear and proper reporting process.
- (3) The ACBC is required to have a process in place by June 2020 on how matters of reporting will be handled.
- (4) There is a universal reporting form to be used in Australia by all Clergy (Bishops, Priests, Deacons) and all Religions (male and female) who are obliged to report on crimes of abuse towards children and vulnerable adults committed by fellow Clergy and Religious.
- (5) This reporting process does not replace the obligation to report alleged crimes to civil authorities and the Police.

The reporting process to be followed is:

- 5.1 All Clerics and Religious are obliged to report all crimes of abuse by other Clerics and Religious using the approved form. Lay persons can also use this form.
 - 5.2 A summary page of all the key details of the reporting process can be accessed on the ACBC link here: www.catholic.org.au/vosestisluxmundi
 - 5.3 A flow chart indicating clearly the reporting process of crimes by Deacons, Priests, and Religious can be accessed on the ACBC link (as above).
 - 5.4 It is important to note that initially the report is sent to two persons at the same time: the Diocesan Bishop of the place where the alleged abuse occurred, and the Director of the Professional Standards Office in the state of the person reporting.
 - 5.5 If the alleged abuse is one covered by civil law of mandatory reporting, the matter is also reported to the Police at the same time.
- (6) The point of *VELM* is to make the report process of alleged abuse by Clerics and Religious a transparent, uniform, accountable and obligatory process, respecting both civil and Church law.