

3.3 | PROCEDURES for reporting a Concern

What is included in these procedures?

These procedures include guidance for anyone wishing to make a complaint or bring an allegation against a Divine Word Missionary, either living or dead, in the matter of the sexual abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

To whom do these procedures apply?

These procedures apply to any member of the public who wishes to report a concern or make a complaint or bring an allegation to the Church Authority of the Society of the Divine Word (the Provincial), or who wishes to raise any matter in the area of Professional Standards and Safeguarding.

3.3.1 Reporting sexual abuse.

The Society of the Divine Word (the Divine Word Missionaries) views with great seriousness a complaint of abuse or allegation against a member, either living or dead. Members of the public wishing to raise a concern in this area should follow these procedures:

- **In the matter of current sexual abuse** if the person is under 18:
Contact your local police station in the first instance, or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or in emergency dial 000.
- **In the matter of historical sexual abuse** of a child or vulnerable adult:
Call the Divine Word Missionaries Provincial Office in NSW on (02) 9868-2666, or contact the Divine Word Missionaries Director of Professional Standards and Safeguarding on (02) 9868-9002, or send an email to the following address:
svdsafeguarding@divineword.com.au

3.3.2 Obtaining redress through the National Redress Scheme.

Concerned persons who wish to raise a complaint of historical child sexual abuse against a member of the Divine Word Missionaries, either living or dead, may do so through the National Redress Scheme. The NRS assures anonymity of the applicant. For information about applying to the Scheme, visit www.nationalredress.gov.au

3.3.3 Professional Standards and Safeguarding

To report a concern in the area of Professional Standards and Safeguarding or to make a general inquiry in these areas, contact Fr Michael Hardie, Divine Word Missionaries Director of Professional Standards and Safeguarding, on (02) 9868-9002, or email to: svdsafeguarding@divineword.com.au