

Legislation Committee

Subject: FW: Submission re Children and Community Services Bill 2019

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To: Legislation Committee <lclc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

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Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2020

Submission on mandatory reporting by Priests from the Confessional

- 1) Catholics go to confess the sins they have committed against other people, not what other people have done to them.
- 2) They go in good faith that, by confessing their sins in sorrow and with humility, they will receive absolution if a penitential act is performed and reparation is made
- 3) Reparation is for example, the return of a stolen item or apology for disedifying another person and with a firm resolve to never sin in that way again.
- 4) Confidentiality is assured, only the penitent, God and the priest who is the intercessor will know of this.
- 5) The child who is experiencing sexual abuse must surely be noticed by the professionals
- 6) (who spend hours, not minutes) in daily contact with the child. These people have many more hours than the time spent in the confessional with the priest to discuss and form a conclusion.
- 7) An adult who has sinned is treated in the same way. Repentance, Penance and Reparation, otherwise no Absolution. Again complete confidentiality.
- 8) Within this framework, the Priest confessor is able to offer helpful advice in facing the particular problems. Again with complete confidentiality.
- 9) The many instances reported from numerous sources of victims of sexual abuse from all age groups speak of the kindness and empathy of the priest in the confessional, the reassurance that what has transpired will remain in the confessional, the feeling of security enshrined in the concept of confidentiality.
- 10) To attempt to remove this protection (with very little consideration for the whole picture) will only leave the above- mentioned people in despair and increase the number of suicides in our youth and older people.

Mrs Sandra Robinson