

Attention to the Committee,

I was shocked to hear that the core concept of Catholics that is seal of confession is threatened. Hope you will consider few points that I need to bring into attention.

I am a mother of 3 Kids, I had a bad experience when I was a teenager in a train by a stranger (not in Australia). Till now I have not told this to anyone including my mother under the sun except a priest. (If there was a law at that time that it had to be reported to a police I would not go for confession). I went to a priest whom I didn't know during a retreat, I did this by the confidence of seal of confession. It was very simple, I had not to pay and had no appointment and the priest didn't need know who I was as that's how the confession meant to be. I was and is lucky to be a catholic, Thanks to my parents, who brought up me into that knowledge. By getting this bill done you are denying that platform for my kids. Honestly one of the reason that I moved to this country was religious freedom.

When my kids were little I used very little day care services, I knew it was subsidised but I reduced on my working hours to look after my kids. They are too little to tell you anything of those act and there are heaps and heaps of chances for a care giver to abuse a child. And I know a person from my mom's generation (not in Australian); they do not mentally grow. Now a child who is able to convey his thoughts we Christian teach them to do confession. If at all anyone abuse and the child is not courageous enough to say anybody. He/she has a place to go and tell and heal his mind and move on rather than going through a psychologist or anybody and been more traumatised during the process. (We have well equipped hospital/health system. I am a nurse, I have not heard people saying it is a fabulous experience going to hospital. That's because the sickness itself is traumatising. Think about you have a sexual abuse issue that you don't want to tell anyone and you are knocking the doors for healing. It is hard to chase. My elder child has a born issues can't be corrected but require medical attention for life lime; I know how hard it is with normal issues) and if the person is courageous enough they will tell this to someone and that's what we need. So we should be educating them well before.

Often the perpetrator will not do a confession. They only do it when they realise what they did was wrong that might not even happen. But the victim might go for confession for mental healing. Now by the law you have threaten the priest and pull the victim from the comfort zone. By doing this people surrounding will come to know, mentally kill and create a mentally ill person. Especially with teenagers, they even end the life by suiciding. Is it right chasing a victim especially when they don't want to? Please give victims time rather pulling them into more problems. At least they are into someone they think might help. We don't need to pull them off secretly and say I am a better channel. They may not be thinking that way. What we should be doing is educating the public more and encouraging, once they have the confidence they will come forward. Catholic churches now has safeguarding system which is working well to protect the children.

To my understanding this matter is not properly studied; and it is a matter to be studied among the people who confess; not just even among Christian. You would ask about the food

of a restaurant to people who visited it, not only just visited, but who had received their service. In my point of view, by breaking the seal of confession people will lose the confidence of confession, which will mentally stress a lot of respective people. People will keep these kind of issues in mind and would not tell anybody then start living in stress which in turn brings in lots of problems. Not sure the current mental system is equipped to solve the current mental health demand. You plant a tree and you will start eating the fruits after few years. It is the same way. This will bring more mental health issues. By bringing this law what are we trying to achieve? Create more mental illness and treat them? Or should we prevent mental illness? To my knowledge prevention is better than cure. After all, by this law we are trying to shortcut the job of investigator's in reality to find a minimal number of cases, disturbing a vast number of community and even ruining the victim. This is like you want to catch a fish from a lake which is disturbing others so you very carefully took out the source of its food but unknowingly or knowingly the whole fish in the lake ended up without food.

Finally, this faith is all over the world for years and years and it is there for so long because it is doing good to the respective community. A person who had a control on their own life and trying to lead a good life will benefit the society so as the other way around. Think if you have a gadget of a well-known company you serviced it with duplicate. Will that product can be called the product of that company anymore? If it is to be called the same product the company owners must be approached and find a solution. It is the same way you are trying to pull out the pillar of Christianity, thinking it will be still efficient. But it will not be. We have polluted earth, water, air; the environment for the people to leave. Now we are polluting the minds of people by constructing laws and rules that can be destructing. Interestingly this kind of trend is seen in all the professions in any works of life, everywhere. And the outcome is the world is leading more stressful day by day and the basic unit of society that is families affected. People are living for laws and rules. Love, compassion, humanity etc. has forcefully downgraded.