



www.lotusplace.org.au

• North Queensland

• January | February 2017

Welcome to this month's edition of the Lillypad
The Lotus Place NQ office is located at
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ABC News Report - Child Sex Abuse Royal Commission: Data Reveals Extent of Catholic Allegations

Please remember this release only includes incidents of abuse reported to the Royal Commission.

The Australian Catholic Church has released "grim" data revealing 7 per cent of priests, working between 1950 and 2009, have been accused of child sex crimes.

The worst-offending institutions, by proportion of their religious staff, have been shown to be the orders of brothers, who often run schools and homes for the most vulnerable of children.

This is the most substantial dataset released to date about the extent of child sex abuse within the Australian Catholic Church, and was done with cooperation from them as part of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The church surveyed 10 religious institutes and 75 church authorities to uncover the abuse data on priests, non-ordained brothers and sisters, and other church personnel who were employed between 1950 and 2009.

4,444 alleged cases recorded

Counsel Gail Furness, SC, said 4,444 alleged child sex abuse incidents were recorded in the survey.

Ninety per cent of the victims were boys, with their average age at time of abuse being 11-and-a-half years old.

Girls were only 10-and-a-half years old on average when they were abused.

7pc of Australian Catholic priests accused

Seven per cent of priests ministering in the 60-year period have been accused of child sex offences.

This is an even starker figure to similar research carried out in the US which found that from 1950 through June 2015, 5.6 per cent of the 116,153 priests who worked have been accused of child sexual abuse.

This map shows the weighted average percentage of accused-perpetrator priests over 60 years. Some dioceses are not included in the map, or the data provided.

Worst Diocese in Australia

| Archdiocese/diocese | State | Average of priests that were accused perpetrators |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Diocese of Sale | VIC | 15.1% |
| Diocese of Sandhurst | VIC | 14.7% |
| Diocese of Port Pirie | SA | 14.1% |
| Diocese of Lismore | NSW | 13.9% |
| Diocese of Wollongong | NSW | 11.7% |

Worst Catholic religious institutes in Australia

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia is about two hours north-east of Perth in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia, and holds a monastery that was founded in 1847.

It is one of the oldest monasteries in Australia, and has the worst average of child sex abuse complaints against its priests and personnel.

| Institute | Weighted average of priests that were accused perpetrators |
|--|--|
| Benedictine Community of New Norcia | 21.5% |
| Salesians of Don Bosco | 17.2% |
| Marist Fathers - Society of Mary | 13.9% |
| Pallottines - Society of the Catholic Apostolate | 13.7% |
| Vincentians - The Congregation of the Mission | 8.0% |

For the full news article by ABC reporters Clare Blumer, Rebecca Armitage and Simon Elvery published on 6/2/2017 go to www.abc.net.au/news.





Living with Trauma



Aged Care

BLUE KNOT FOUNDATION:

TOWARDS RECOVERY BLUE KNOT FOUNDATION FACT SHEET FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CHILDHOOD TRAUMA (INCLUDING ABUSE) Blue Knot Helpline 1300 657 380 | blueknot.org.au | 02 8920 3611 |

Childhood trauma stems from overwhelming negative experiences in early life. It can take many forms (eg. sexual, emotional, physical abuse and neglect). It can also occur without abuse if early caregivers were unable to meet your emotional needs (e.g. because they had unresolved trauma histories themselves).

Unresolved childhood trauma negatively impacts health and well-being in adulthood. It affects both emotional and physical health ('the whole person') and the full impacts may not become apparent until years later.

It is possible to heal from childhood trauma. Research shows that with the right support, even severe early life trauma can be resolved. It also shows that when an adult has resolved their childhood trauma, it benefits their children or the children they may later have.

Effects of childhood trauma include anxiety, depression, health problems (emotional and physical), disconnection, isolation, confusion, being 'spaced out', and fear of intimacy and new experiences. There is no 'one size fits all', but reduced quality of life is a constant.

Survivors are often on 'high alert'. Even minor stress can trigger 'out of proportion' responses. Your body continues to react as if you are still in danger, and this can be explained in terms of unresolved prior experience.

Survivors often struggle with shame and self-blame. But childhood trauma and its established effects are NOT your fault, even though you may feel otherwise (often because this is what you were encouraged to believe as a child when you were vulnerable and still developing).

Recovery is not about 'will-power' and you cannot 'move on' without appropriate assistance and support.

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care

MEDIA RELEASE Thursday 15 December 2016

New package to help improve aged care for care leavers launched Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants, Stolen Generations and their families will benefit from an aged care resource package launched today. The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM, MP, launched the new package to help the transition of people traumatised by their experiences in orphanages, children's homes, foster care or other institutions as they access aged care services, be they in their own home or entering residential care. "The Care Leavers Package is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the unique needs of the Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations who have experienced physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse," Minister Wyatt said. "More than half a million Australians fall within these groups, and many are reaching the age where they need to use aged care services and potentially re-enter a living environment which can trigger dreadful memories. "It's important that aged care providers recognise and understand the emotional and physical scars people in these groups may bring with them as they age, and look more closely at the specific issues relating to their on-going and future care."

Federal Member for Swan and Care Leavers Australasia Network Patron Steve Irons said this Care Leavers Package was essential to help people who were wronged by institutions transition to a new stage of their life. "For many people, the trauma they faced in their early childhood years has followed them into their adult lives. This Package is crucial for aged care service providers to understand the unique experiences and needs of Care Leavers to assist them with appropriate care." The Package has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders, and includes a facilitator's guide for aged care services, an information booklet and a documentary-style video of case studies.

<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/careleavers>. For more information, contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 4707 or mobile 0435 686 314.





Events & News

Community Engagement

Jordan Says Goodbye to Lotus Place NQ

As I've said before to many of you it has been amazing working with you and witnessing your strength and determination in life. Having the opportunity to hear some of your stories has been a real honour.

Due to some changes in my personal life I will be moving out of Townsville and finishing up at Lotus Place NQ in early March. I'm sad to be leaving this position because I have learnt and grown so much through working with all of you. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into the organisation and community, I wish you all the best for the future.

Regional Group Gatherings

Coming into 2017 there is going to be a bit of a change to our group gatherings in regional centres (Mackay, Burdekin, Townsville and Cairns). We are aware that last year there was feedback to try and push for more regular meetings. As a result we will be aiming to have a Lotus Place staff member in each of these locations on a more regular basis.

We have already had various meetings in January & February, in Cairns for example there was a great turnout. Groups are not something that everyone wants to be involved in, which is fine, but we do encourage everyone to make it when they can. The more people we have come along the easier it is to continue holding regular meetings.

Reference Group NQ News and Vision for 2017

In the second half of 2016 the NQ Reference Group reformed and begun meetings. Since then some excellent work on various projects has begun. The biggest success from last was the extremely popular wallet support cards which were designed as a support aid when you find yourself needing to explain some of your history and its effects. Many people have received the wallet cards and started using them. With continuing feedback we will be printing more copies (and variations if necessary) as demand continues. If you haven't heard of the wallet cards or haven't got one please call us at the office and we can explain their use and send an appropriate card to you.

The group has had it's first meeting for 2017 and it already seems to be quite clear that there is a lot of passion and focus for education and awareness raising. As survivors of out of home care continue to engage with health services, support and aged care services it is clear that there is a lot of work to

be done to make these organisations and services aware of the needs and sensitivities of care leavers.

Lotus Place staff and Reference Group members have agreed that further pressure needs to be put on local and federal government to increase trauma informed training for health and support professionals. Ideally the history of Australia's care system would be taught as early as primary or secondary school however the reality is that we need awareness in the workplace now and changing school curriculum is a slow process.

If we can put pressure on universities, the education department and community/government leaders now we believe that there is a higher chance that we will see a faster change in the way health and support services engage with survivors of out of home care.

If you are passionate about this issue please get in touch with Lotus Place NQ. This is a high priority issue, change is more likely to happen when more of you come forward and demonstrate how necessary it is!





Townsville Centre Open Hours and Service Structure

Call anytime Monday to Friday for support and referral over the phone

Monday - Thursday drop in 10am to 2pm

Friday - Appointment only



Lotusplacena

*Photos from
Christmas
2016*



Upcoming Events

1 March

Cairns

Group Meeting

22 March

Mackay

Group Meeting

28 March

Townsville

Group Lunch

5 April

Cairns

Group Meeting

19 April

Mackay

Group Meeting

12 April

Burdekin

Group Meeting

25 April

Townsville

Group Lunch

