



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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*This letter has been sent to all Victorian ministers in placement
and congregation secretaries*

Dear friends,

Supporting those who hear a disclosure of child sexual abuse

As you may be aware, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is underway. The publicity surrounding this Royal Commission may help people who have been abused to speak out for the first time, even if the incident happened a very long time ago.

As a Synod we acknowledge this and have developed separate resources for Victoria and for Tasmania to assist anyone who finds themselves being the person hearing a disclosure of abuse.

Please find attached the document, *A response of a Compassionate Church - Victoria*, which aims to assist you to know what to do and where to get support. In addition, I recommend the Synod's Ethical Standards Officer, Rev Lauren Mosso, and the Bethel Centre as other avenues for support.

I would also like to draw your attention to the findings of the Victorian State Inquiry into Child Abuse by Religious and Non-Government Organisations Institutions to which the Uniting Church made representations. This document can be found at: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc/article/1788>

Grace and peace,

Rev Dr Mark Lawrence
General Secretary

