

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION: DEFENDING THE SEAL OF CONFESSION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 January 2020 5:15:04 PM

---

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
Brisbane Qld 4000

7 January 2020

To Whom It May Concern

SUBMISSION TO DEFEND THE SEAL OF CONFESSION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mandatory reporting by Catholic Priests who hear the confession of a child abuser have many serious consequences for Religious freedom and amounts to an attack on a sacred rite of the Catholic Church:

1. The identity of the person confessing is unknown to the priest. Exact particulars are also not required in Confession, thus there are no basic facts available with which to file a report.
2. Those who attend Confession are remorseful and must indicate a resolve not to sin again. Child abusers who carry out evil and unspeakable crimes conceal their actions and do not self-report let alone confess to a priest.
3. The law is open to abuse and could pave the way for anyone with malice towards the Catholic Church or an individual priest to fabricate a confession in order to incriminate a priest.

Yours faithfully

[Helen Connell](#)

[REDACTED]