

In Good Faith
FOUNDATION
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONAL
ABUSE RECOVERY

Annual Report

2017-2018

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1. About In Good Faith Foundation

Our Vision

Together we will see the restoration and recovery of survivors of institutional abuses in Australia.

Our Mission

To achieve justice, recovery and ongoing support for the wellbeing of survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses

Our History

IGFF began its ground-breaking work supporting survivors of religious institutional abuses in 1997 as In Good Faith and Associates. As Founder, Helen Last, began the provision of critical advocacy and support for an emerging number of male survivors reporting historical religious institutional abuses. Helen’s earlier work as a national sexual violence prevention consultant for CASA saw a comprehensive response developed that continues to inform the practice of IGFF today.

IGFA began as an independent, self-funded organisation and established an expert practitioners’ network to respond immediately to survivors, family and church community members. This referral network provided access to mental and medical health, social welfare, legal advice, police, resources, community development and pastoral care. In 2003, IGFA realised that the large number of survivors they supported were willing to form a community action group and act as agents for social change and institutional reform. This initiative was formalised in 2007 and ‘The Melbourne Victims’ Collective’ (MVC) was founded.



IGFF attends MCG viewing of the National Apology to Survivors on Monday 22nd October

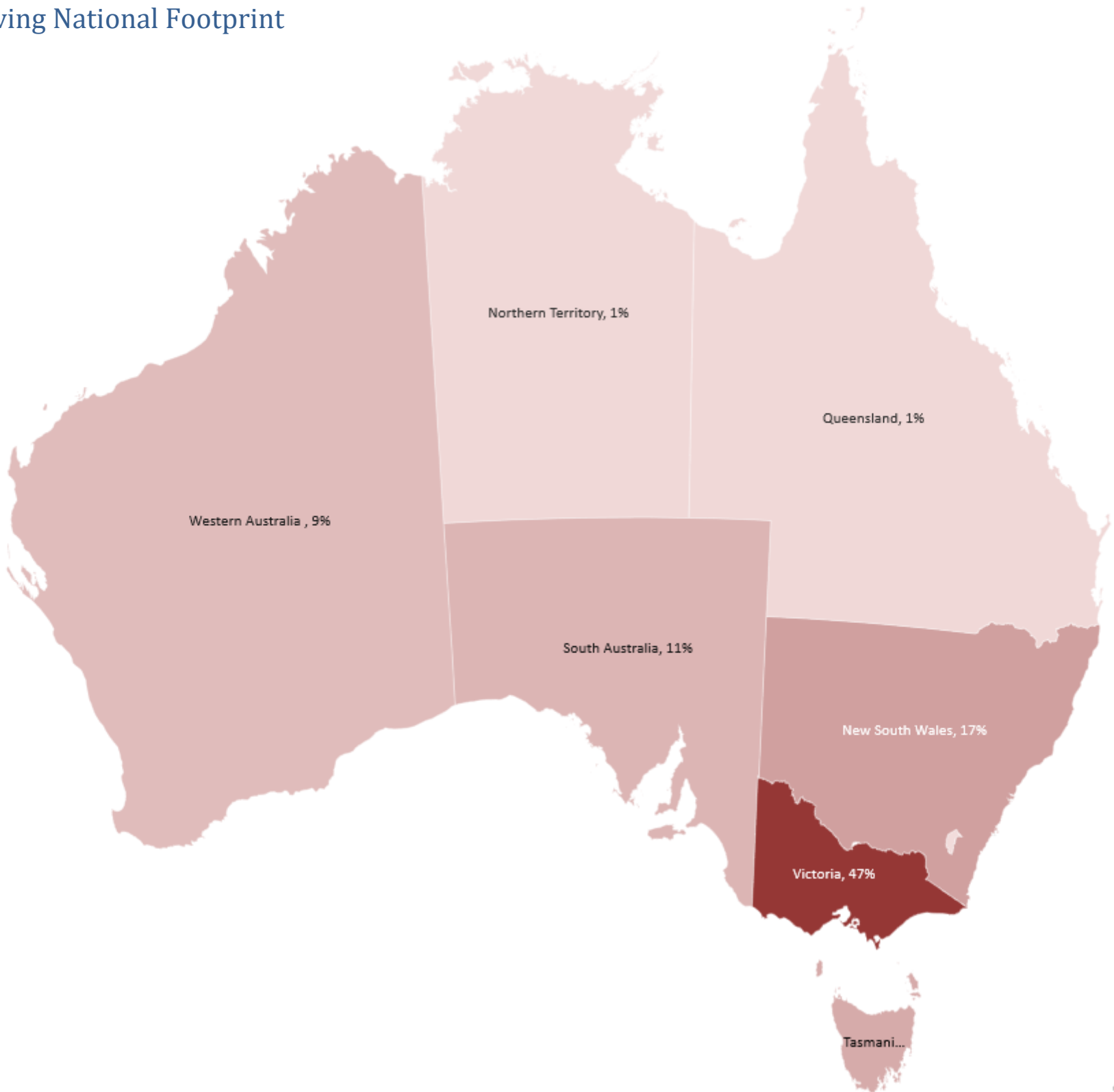


Guest Speaker Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald and MVC Members - October 2018

In 2012, the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations commenced and IGFA saw demand for our services expand exponentially. Throughout 2012-13 IGFA initiated and presented education forums in key Victorian locations to build community awareness and engagement with this critical Government initiative.

In August 2013, IGFA transitioned into the charitable structure of In Good Faith Foundation (IGFF) coinciding with our first Federal Government grant to provide comprehensive Royal Commission Support Services supplemented by ongoing private donations. The focus of the last five years has been to maintain high level services to over 600 survivors of religious institutional abuse. Maintaining our MVC throughout this time has kept the survivor community involved and empowered.

1 Our Growing National Footprint



2 CEO's Corner

Having recently stepped into the role of CEO after 7 years' working for IGFF, I have been in the privileged position of having worked closely with clients engaging with Government Inquiries and assisting them on their journeys of recovery. Through my work alongside Founder Helen Last, I have also been fortunate enough to have participated in the transition of In Good Faith and Associates as it became In Good Faith Foundation. IGFF was registered as a charitable organization in August 2013 and dedicated exclusively to the rights clergy abuse survivors.

Since the launch of the Foundation in 2014, an ever-increasing demand for IGFF's services has seen our mission expand to encompass survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses. Our work as a Royal Commission Support Service, now national Redress Scheme Support service has bolstered our existing community and professional associations with new

partnerships with local community organisations, treating practitioners and support services remaining an emerging focus for IGFF.

The 2017/18 financial year has seen IGFF receive increased funding as a Redress Scheme Support Service and an additional grant from the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Smaller contributions have been also received from both one off and recurring donors. Generous individuals have also volunteered their expertise and donated goods in kind. IGFF greatly values the support provided by these individuals and their investment in the work of the Foundation.

IGFF has also been fortunate to work alongside survivors in achieving the Memorials at Xavier College, Kew and Emmanuel College, Warrnambool. In October 2017, IGFF launched our documentary "Sustaining the Hope" with Opposition Leader, Honorable Bill Shorten as Guest Speaker.

Whilst there remains plenty for IGFF to achieve in the years to come, we can remain confident working to achieve the mission and vision passed on by our Founder, Helen Last. Our work extends far beyond the visible legislative changes and institutional responses – it is the commendable and compassionate support offered to survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuses.



Opposition Leader Hon. Bill Shorten Speaks at our 'Sustaining the Hope' documentary launch. Documentary available [here](#)

Student Placement

My name is Ingrid and I am currently on a student placement at IGFF. I am studying a diploma of Community Services at AAPolytech in Melbourne

Before I started my placement at IGFF I had no idea what the organisation did, so after googling the website I started researching about the issues that IGFF was dealing with, and how they were helping many victims of institutional abuse.

Two months on, I feel that I have learnt so much and feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to work with such wonderful people.

There is so much work to do, however I feel that I have been able to provide support and help where it was needed. I was fortunate enough to also have been part of an historical event taking place, with the National Apology Day, and felt honoured being part of many survivors on this day.

My placement will come to an end soon, so I thank you all for allowing me to be part of the many challenges some people are facing in their lives. Thank you to those that I have met, and hopefully I will be able to join you all again in trying to make a positive change to the issues of institutional abuse.

3 Our Work

Redress Scheme Support Service

Continuing on from IGFF's work as a Royal Commission Support Service, 2017-2018 has been an important milestone marking the DSS funded transition from supporting clients' engaging with the Royal Commission and other justice pathways to the advent of the National Redress Scheme born out of the Royal Commission's recommendations. Of utmost importance in our response, is the therapeutic care and wellbeing of each new client. This need has driven us to forge an even wider, national network of support associates for warm referrals when required.

As a National Redress Scheme Support Service IGFF offers free and confidential support to anyone considering applying to the Scheme. The Scheme offers acknowledgment and support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. IGFF can also help survivors decide whether they want to apply, fill out the form and support them throughout the process.

Redress may be an alternative to seeking compensation through the courts.

The National Redress Scheme can provide three things:

- Access to counselling;
- A payment; and
- A direct personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology) for people who want one.

The scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will take applications until 30 June 2027.



National Apology to Survivors:
October 2018

National Apology to Survivors: Reflections from Secondary Survivor

What did I feel – Jill Mather – Sister of Gavan Boyle

I felt and heard a very personal apology to Gavan, to my Mum especially, to



Jimbo and myself. Gavan will never be forgotten by my family or by my nation. His pain and suffering is remembered by the Tree of Life in Federation Mall, and the 17 volumes from the Royal Commission in the library at Parliament House.

I truly felt and believed Australia humbly acknowledged its failure to see the dreadful things that were happening to children in churches, in schools, in boarding houses, in camps, in orphanages, in foster care, in places where they should have been safe and nurtured and protected over decades

and decades and decades. And it said sorry.

So many children and adults were not believed but "I believe you, we believe you, the nation believes you."

My last encounter was with Robert Fitzgerald. I shook hands and hugged him and thanked him and his fellow Royal Commissioners and other staff for their courage, their work, their skills and their determination; for staying so long at the job and for making the church accountable.

The National Apology was for survivors of sexual abuse in institutions and their families – and it was affirming as the hurt and pain was recognised at every level of government without fear or favour or political persuasion.

The Melbourne Victims' Collective

The Melbourne Victims' Collective (MVC) was established in 2007 in response to the urgent needs of survivors with significant contributions from treating practitioners and family members. This initial group has expanded to some 80 survivors, family members, support service representatives, community groups and practitioners who meeting throughout the year to discuss current information, potential group action and pathways forward.

As a Collective, the MVC has met successfully for the last 12 months providing members with critical and up to date information on a range of current topics. As an important Community Development work the MVC has input from guest speakers, treating practitioners, other support services and community groups. Throughout 2018

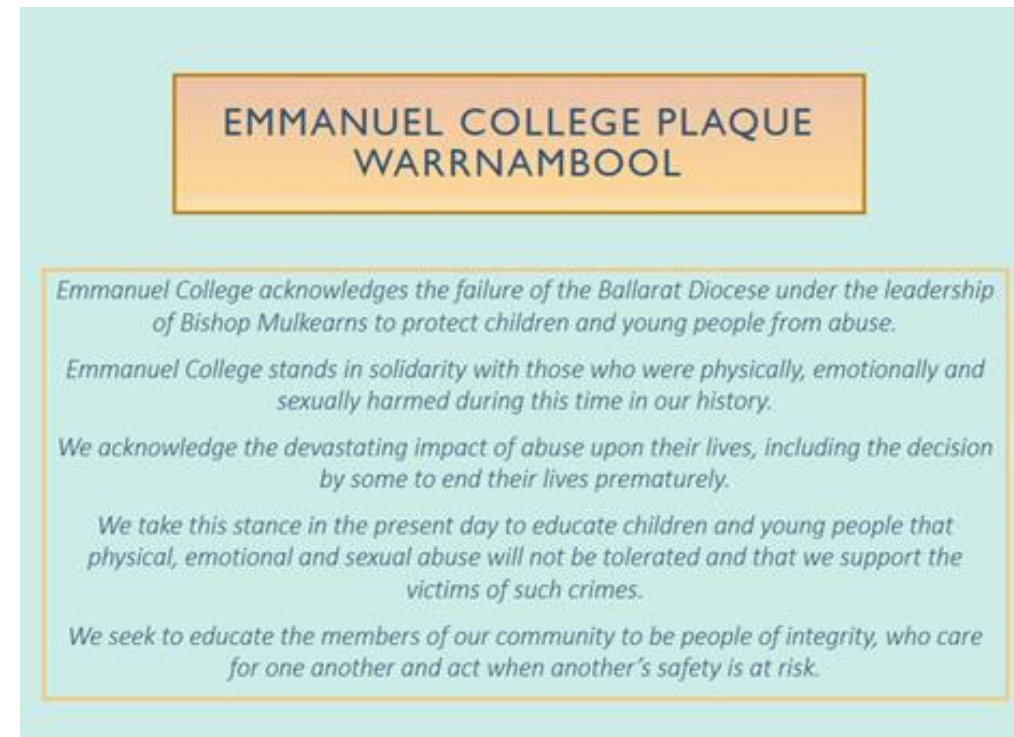
Some of the important issues covered during those meetings included:

- Introduction and review of Royal Commission's final reports and analysis of critical items within those reports
- Provision of psychological support as informal advice to meeting participants
- Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM, who had participated as a Commissioner for the Royal Commission addressed an MVC meeting with great feeling and strong compliments to the witnesses who had provided the basic information behind the Commission's findings and their report
- Presentation from a survivor on the "Plaques Project" in Western Victoria
- Legal professionals from various firms provided current legal advice regarding the National Redress Scheme. Their advice was for survivors to take other avenues in most situations

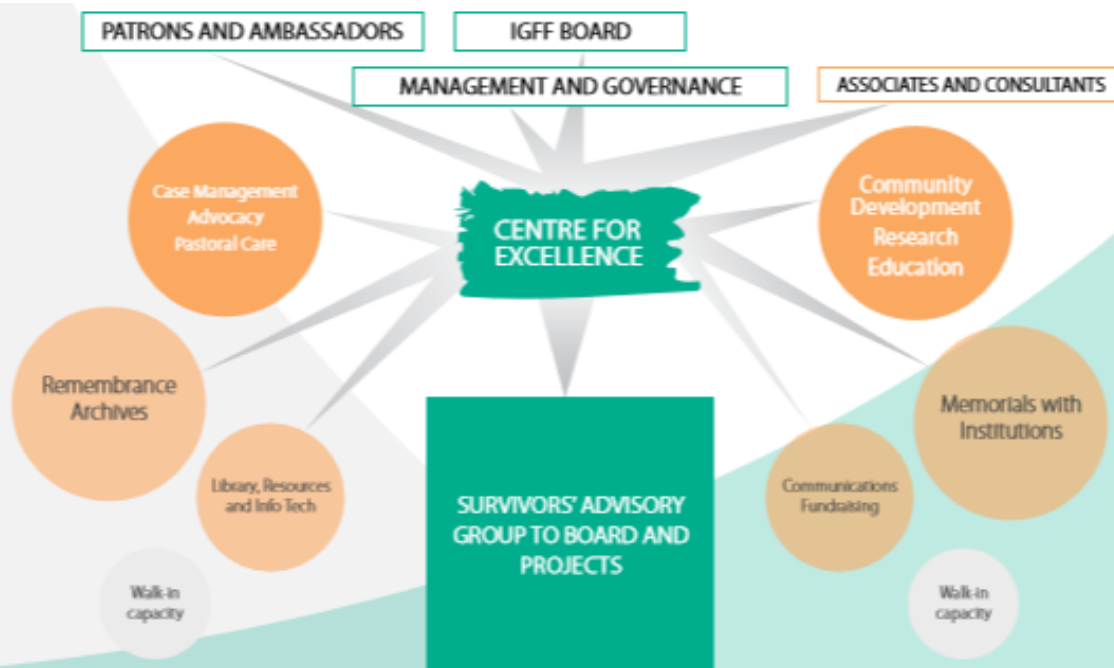
Other activities

Other activities included:

- Written and verbal participation in Catholic Professional Standards Limited National Safeguarding Standards Review
- Attendance at Health and Integrity Conference August 2018
- Jim Boyle and Helen Last participated in an invited discussion with the new Archbishop of Melbourne immediately on his arrival here. Fr Dillon also participated on behalf of Lifeboat Geelong
- Jim Boyle & Helen Last participated in an advice conference to the steering committee for the National Apology



4 Supporting our Centre for Excellence



IGFF has developed a proposal to establish a **“Centre for Excellence for survivors of institutional abuses”**. This proposal is a 5-year plan outlining our necessary service growth and development; carrying forth the Royal Commission’s comprehensive recommendations and national leadership. IGFF has consulted and established a base of support to this proposal that includes survivors and their families, community groups, and supporting professionals.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL OR INVEST IN THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION, PLEASE CONTACTS US ON (03) 9940 1533 OR IGFF@IGFF.ORG.AU

DONATE NOW

YOU CAN DONATE TO OUR WORK AND HELP THE RECOVERY OF SURVIVORS BY:

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This can be done by visiting our website at <http://igff.org.au/donate-now/>