

# Supporting Survivors of Religion



**By Lara Kaput and Steven Unthank  
for the Humanist Society of Victoria**

# Recovering Jehovah's Witnesses

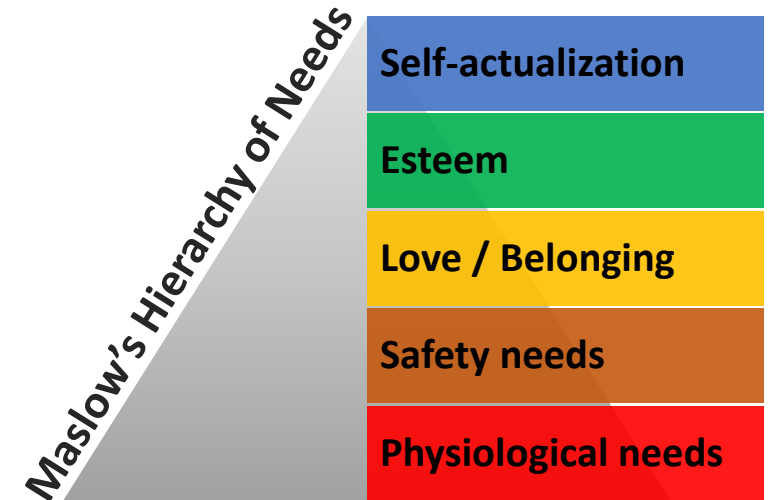
I don't know who I am now and I don't have life goals, yet! I lack critical thinking skills

My former religion teaches I am worthless

I never celebrated my birthday and I don't even know how

I am financially poor

I am being shunned by my family and friends



# The struggle to support ex-Jehovah's Witnesses



**It's disparate. It's inconsistent. It's not enough.**

# THE INTERVIEW



# The Interview: The Achievements of a Thriver

**2011:** *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry*

**2011-2012:** Criminal prosecution of the Church of Jehovah's Witnesses over breaches of the working with children laws

**2012-2013:** *Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-government Organisations*

**2014-2017:** *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*

**2014-2018:** Chaplaincy and Privacy Issues within the Church of Jehovah's Witnesses

**2017-2018:** Preparing a 113 page legal document and supporting evidence for Barbara Anderson and the New York Attorney General in relation to allegations of unlawful conduct in the United States by Watchtower New York

# **Chaplaincy in Victoria and the Privacy Rights of Children**

# Commonwealth Privacy Laws and the Victorian Privacy Laws

## AUSTRALIA

*Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles

[Applies to all corporations, organisations, and entities except for State or Territory Public Sector Organisations]

## VICTORIA

*Health Records Act 2001* (Vic) and the Health Privacy Principles

[Applies to all health service providers in Victoria]  
and

*Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic)

[Applies only to Public Sector Organisations]



# Child Abuse Royal Commission – Church of Jehovah’s Witnesses Summary of Findings

**1,800+**

child abuse victims

**1,006**

alleged perpetrators

**0**

allegations of child sexual abuse reported to  
the authorities or police by the Church of  
Jehovah’s Witnesses



Royal Commission  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

## REPORT OF CASE STUDY NO. 29

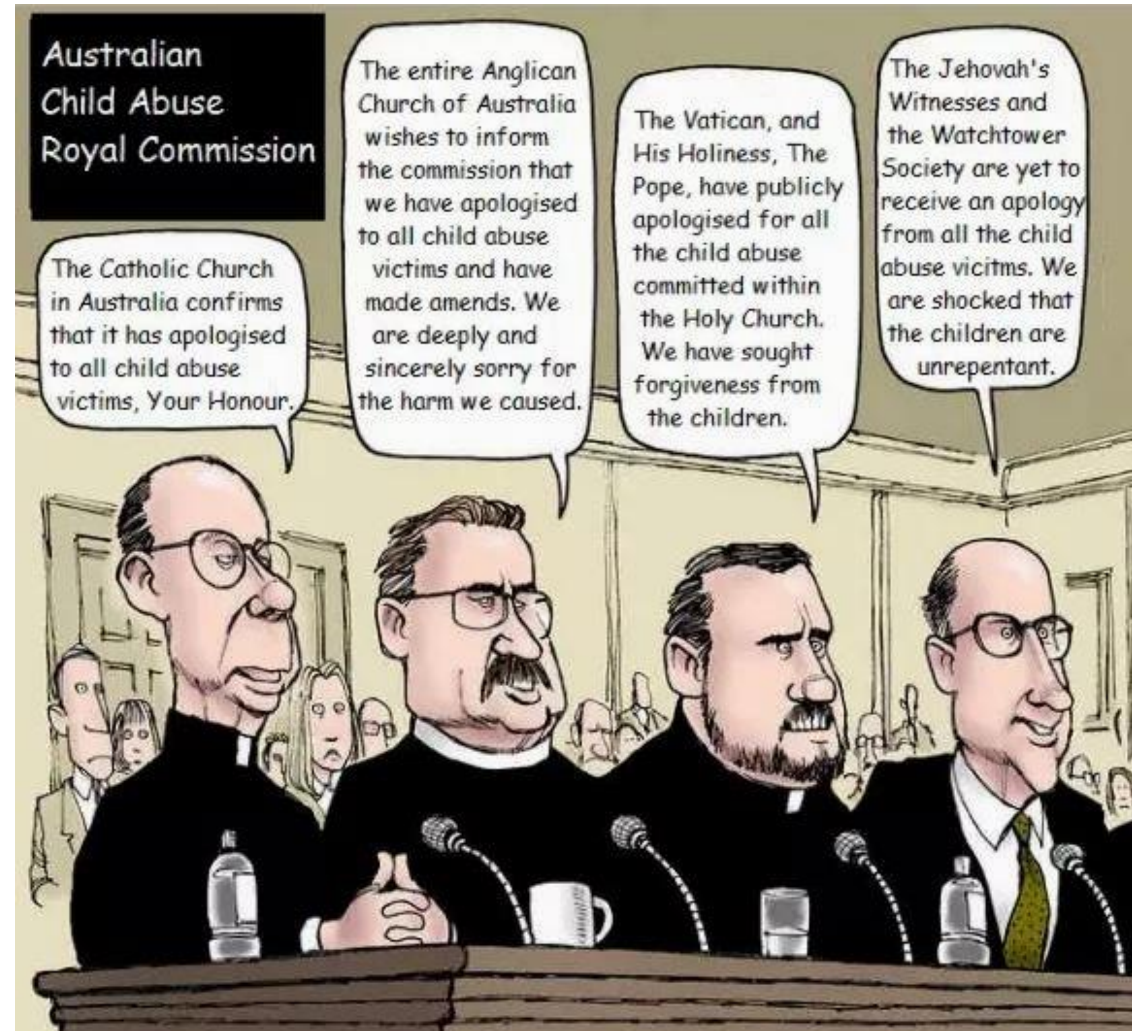
The response of the Jehovah’s  
Witnesses and Watchtower Bible  
and Tract Society of Australia  
Ltd to allegations of child  
sexual abuse

OCTOBER 2016



# Child Abuse Royal Commission – Church of Jehovah’s Witnesses Redress Scheme - Update

Justice McClellan: “As far as the redress scheme is concerned, if it takes the form, or roughly the form, the Commission has recommended, [the Jehovah’s Witnesses] liability will be determined on a case-by-case basis and you will be contributing on a case-by-case basis.”



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# Supporting Survivors of Religion



**Real Friends**

**In Control of Life**

**Health and Wellbeing**

**Education**

**Freedom from Religion**

**To make my own informed decisions**

**Worldly Wise**

**Financially in Control**

**Contributing Member of the Community**

## Questions and Answers

SaySorry.org

26 July 2018