



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Date: 6 March 2018

**Media Statement – Archbishop Denis Hart
Legal Identity of Defendants (Organisational Child Abuse)
Bill 2018**

I welcome today’s announcement by the Victorian Government of its intention to introduce new laws allowing victims of child abuse to sue institutions which may be responsible for their abuse.

This is a reform which I welcomed when *Betrayal of Trust* was released in 2013 and for which the Truth Justice and Healing Council on behalf of the Catholic Church has advocated in submissions to the Royal Commission. In relation to civil claims involving personnel of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, I have for the past few years nominated myself as the defendant in civil claims for child abuse and agreed to meet any liability established against a former Archbishop of Melbourne.

When the new law is passed, the Archdiocese will have an entity that satisfies its requirements available as a proper defendant to respond to any future claims that might be made.

The Archdiocese seeks to resolve claims through survivor focused redress whenever possible.

I remain committed to fair, reasonable and honest dealings with victims of child abuse and to always treating them with respect and dignity. Inquiries: Shane Healy - 0417 928 588



**DIAMOND VALLEY REGION COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT
Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th July 2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
URGENTLY NEEDED!**

Back in 2016, Members of Vinnies Greensborough heard about local single mother of three girls Kathy Jones who had become paralysed after a routine procedure. Kathy had lost her job, her confidence and was in danger of losing her dignity when Vinnies heard about her plight and decided to do something about it.

That something was the Vinnies Diamond Valley Region Community Sleepout—a community event that invites business and community members to an experiential insight into the realities of homelessness by ‘sleeping rough’ for one night.

Since its inception, this community event has raised more than \$35,000 to help people just like Kathy.

This year, the 2018 Sleepout aims to raise \$50,000 to support people (especially single parents and their children) experiencing disadvantage and hardship in the Diamond Valley region, but **we need your help!**

We are desperately seeking volunteers to join the Diamond Valley Sleepout committee, to assist with the coordination and continuation of this fantastic event.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 19th March at the Greensborough Football Clubrooms at 5.30pm.

For further information or to RSVP your attendance to the next meeting, please contact John Ellis on 0437 490 389 or email: diamvalley.rc.cnc@svdp-vic.org.au

