

APPENDIX 3

PASTORALCARE:

After a suspicion of child abuse has been investigated, there are likely to be strong feelings among co-workers, employees, parents, children and others, which will need to be addressed.

It is imperative that the Pastoral Care needs of all be addressed in ways that are appropriate to the situation and to the individual/groups involved.

Pastoral Care may include-

- Offering support to alleged victims and their families (families is always understood in the wider sense)
- If permission is given by the accused person, support should be offered to the accused person and their families as appropriate
- To Colleagues of the accused person, in the community or Religious Congregation
- Communication - to all parties - to be given initial information and to be kept informed of the on-going process where this is legally appropriate.
- Dealing with feelings of guilt and/ or shame
- Dealing with blame, particularly, when a suspicion was not reported, resulting in further abuse

Support of one of our own Employees, her family and Community

- Offer Pastoral and spiritual support to the family and community
- Make it clear to the employee(s) and their family that they will receive all rights due to them
- Employees will be offered psychological help if needed

An appropriate person trained in Pastoral Care should will prepared to address the pastoral care needs of all those affected by a suspicion or allegation of child abuse.