

MEDIA RELEASE
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Fr Chris Riley outraged over lenient sentence awarded to pedophile.

Fr Chris Riley today expressed outrage at a suspended sentence handed to a guilty pedophile by Judge Nick Samios in a Brisbane court yesterday.

The Brisbane Times reported the 42-year-old Ipswich man pleaded guilty to five counts of rape, two counts of indecent treatment of a child and one count of maintaining a sexual relationship with a child under 16. His sentence has been wholly suspended after he has served just 2 and-a-half years in remand.

"This man has systematically abused his daughter since she was 12 years old and he is now being rewarded with leniency by the courts because he has admitted to it," said Fr Chris Riley, CEO and Founder, Youth Off The Streets.

"This is an outrageous example of how our court system is failing our children. This system is failing the victims of child sexual abuse by rewarding their perpetrators," he continued.

Pedophilia has reached epidemic proportions with some health experts considering it the biggest health crisis facing Australia today.

Child sexual abuse is one of the most under reported of all crimes. It is now commonly accepted that **1 in 3 females** and **1 in 8 males** have experienced childhood sexual abuse in Australia today.

"We must be the protectors of our children," said Fr Riley

"It is alarming to note that the average child in Australia has to tell three adults that they have suffered sexual abuse before one adult believes them," he continued.

"In this case, the young girls involved have spoken out, they have tried to get adults to ensure their safety, but the court system has failed them when they have sought justice through the only proper channels open to them."

"As a nation, our statistics of child sexual abuse are terrifying. We must stop accepting pedophilia by providing lenient sentences. Our children are in trouble, we must face our adult responsibility to provide them with protection,"

"The legal system clearly needs a massive overhaul so that it may work as a support for victims who have had the courage to speak up and a deterrent to people who consider harming children," said Fr Riley.

Youth Off The Streets Mission:

Helping disconnected young people to discover greatness within, by engaging, supporting and providing opportunities to encourage and facilitate positive life choices.

About Youth Off The Streets:

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. We support these young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal traumas such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care.

It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand. **To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please call: 1800 06 22 88 or visit:**

www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

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**For more information, about Youth Off The Streets please contact:
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