

MEDIA RELEASE

Truth Justice and Healing Council community briefings



1 May 2015

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council continued a schedule of community briefings this week.

The first took place for Catholic priests, educators and other senior Church people in Ararat in the Diocese of Ballarat in Victoria ahead of the Ballarat hearing due to start later this month.

The major briefing included contributions from local Bishop, Paul Bird; Head of the Catholic Education Office, Audrey Brown; the Diocesan Business Manager, Mark Bromley, and from Francis Sullivan.

It included details of the extent of child sexual abuse in the Diocese and the impact on the close-knit local community. The briefing also included details of communications efforts to keep the community informed about the upcoming hearing and the role of the Truth Justice and Healing Council.

Mr Sullivan then met with around 40 people at a community meeting in St Mark's Parish Hall in Drummoyne in Sydney. The challenging discussion included the impact of church culture and a long history of denial on the Church community. Time was also dedicated to the reform agenda needed to keep children safe.

Today Mr Sullivan met with 80 principals and education leaders at the general meeting of the Principals' Association of Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools in Essendon in Victoria, where he talked about the work of the Council and the Church's approach to the Royal Commission.

As the work of the Royal Commission continues, the Truth Justice and Healing Council is working steadily towards the reform of the Church's approach to preventing of child sexual abuse, and to the way survivors are compensated for the crimes they endured as children.

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

For more information on the Royal Commission go to:

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

Truth Justice and Healing Council

PO Box 4593 KINGSTON ACT 2604 | Tel: +61 2 6234 0900 | Fax: +61 2 6234 0999