

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Truth Justice and Healing Council in consultation with Churches



20 November 2015

The TJHC met with chancellors, vicars general and child protection professionals from NSW dioceses this week to map what lies ahead for the Catholic Church as the work of the Royal Commission continues.

Francis Sullivan CEO of the TJHC said despite almost three years of Commission hearings and policy reforms within the Church it is surprising so many key Church decision makers still don't fully understand how and where the Church leaders want our approach to child sexual abuse issues to change.

"The Church has rightly been through a period of intense public scrutiny as a result of the work of the Royal Commission and this will continue as we hear more in future public hearings involving the Catholic Church," Mr Sullivan said.

It is the senior management in the Church, along with Church leaders who need to understand the changes that are taking place so the broader Church community can be brought along.

"While a lot of things have changed over the past three years or so, much more needs to be done re-establish Bishops as moral leaders in the face of the child sexual abuse scandal.

In addition to a number of public hearings, Mr Sullivan, said the Council will be considering theological, pastoral and public policy learnings from the Commission.

"The Council is also working towards reforms that will see an independent body set, monitor and report on standards that affect children and vulnerable people in the Catholic Church", Mr Sullivan said.

At a separate meeting, the Council met with other Churches in Sydney this week to talk about shared concerns such as response to victims and survivors, the need for a national redress scheme, data collection and policy developments.

Representatives from the Uniting, Anglican Lutheran and Baptist Churches and The Salvation Army and the Church of Christ meet a few times each year to discuss developments.

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: [www.tjhcouncil.org.au](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au)*