

# MEDIA RELEASE

## TJHC welcomes release of Royal Commission findings into Marist Brothers Canberra hearing



11 December, 2015

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed the release of the Royal Commission's final report into Case Study 13 which examined the response of the Marist Brothers to allegations of child sexual abuse against Brother Kostka Chute and former Brother, Gregory Sutton.

The report was released today (Friday 11 December 2015) following a public hearing held in Canberra and Sydney in June, July and August 2014 which investigated allegations against Chute and Sutton in schools in the ACT, NSW and Queensland.

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the report made a range of comments on people involved with Chute and Sutton and the way in which they had dealt with claims of abuse made against them over a number of years.

"The Commission has been critical of the failure to act by a number of Provincials who missed opportunities to remove Brother Chute from teaching or from contact with children and as a result put more children at risk," Mr Sullivan said.

"And with Sutton the Commission has found the Brothers took no disciplinary action against him after an admission of sexual abuse, except for sending him for treatment.

"What we have seen from this report is that again a Catholic organisation has failed to act in the best interests of the children in its care. And while these events took place many years ago it is difficult to understand how it could have happened.

"Many measures have been put in place since these allegations came to light, but hopefully the findings of this hearing will cement the importance of vigilance, transparency and accountability for all organisations working with children.

The report notes that the Provincial of the Marist Brothers at the time of the hearing, Brother Jeffrey Crowe, told the Commission that failures of communication and of action had had tragic results and that the facts were horrendous and inexcusable.

Chute taught at various schools in Queensland, NSW and the ACT. In 2008, he was charged and convicted of 19 child sex offences against six children he taught at Marist College Canberra.

Sutton also taught at a number of schools in Queensland, NSW and the ACT. In 1996 he pleaded guilty to 67 child sex offences in relation to 15 students at schools in New South Wales.

The Commission's report can be found here:

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/124e6dcf-412b-475f-bc9c-50e03d971380/Report-of-Case-Study-No-13>

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

For more information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

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