

MEDIA RELEASE

Loud fence movement grows in Catholic community



The 'Loud Fence' movement is growing in the Catholic community with another two schools recently encouraging students and parents to tie coloured ribbons to their school's front fence in support of survivors of child sexual abuse.

St Mary's Church in Buderim on Queensland's Sunshine Coast and Damascus College in Ballarat are the most recent schools to make the very public demonstration of support.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the Loud Fence movement is growing.

"This is a very practical and clear way of showing support for child abuse victims in their own communities," Mr Sullivan said.

"Over the past couple of years we have seen many schools and parishes encourage this very effective way of demonstrating support.

"From Queensland to Victoria schools and parishes are making it clear just how horrified they are with the scale of the abuse that has been revealed in so many different institutions.

"A lot of people have difficulty talking about child sex abuse. The Loud Fence movement is just one way of breaking down the silence and letting people show their support.

"Through the Loud Fence movement parishioners can stand with survivors in solidarity. Hopefully this will add to the healing process," he said.

Loud Fence initiatives have appeared around the world with ribbons tied on Westminster Abbey in London, Bali, China and across Australia.

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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.

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