

MEDIA RELEASE

Clarification on reporting requirements regarding child sexual abuse and the confessional



15 August 2017

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, in response to media enquiries, has today reiterated that the position of the Council on maintaining an exemption for reporting information relating to child sexual abuse revealed in the confessional has not changed.

In its Criminal Justice submission to the Royal Commission in November 2016 the Council recommended that the confessional remain exempt from these reporting requirements.

This position was reiterated during the final Royal Commission case study hearing involving the Catholic Church in February this year.

The TJHC respects the Commission's processes but continues to maintain that the exemption remains in place.

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