



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### TRUTH, JUSTICE AND HEALING COUNCIL

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The Truth, Justice and Healing Council is charged to:

1. Subject to directions from the Supervisory Group and any powers reserved to the Supervisory Group and consistent with the civil, canonical and pastoral obligations of each Bishop and Congregational Leader, to organise, manage and coordinate the Catholic Church's representation in, response to and engagement with the Royal Commission Into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, including:
  - a. the preparation of documentation and legal submissions,
  - b. the facilitation of materials for the Commission; and
  - c. the organisation of individuals appearing before the Commission in relation to the matters associated with the Catholic Church.
2. Report regularly to the Supervisory Group through the Chair of the Supervisory Group on:
  - a. the activities and operations of the Council;
  - b. the Royal Commission, its conduct and the ramifications for the Church's agencies, processes, procedures and pastoral life.
3. Review the formulation, development and compliance with existing Church protocols and policies in relation to child safety, protection and welfare, and provide recommendations to the Supervisory Group.
4. In collaboration with Church leaders, to be responsible for and to manage all public relations and communications for the Church in relation to the Royal Commission.
5. Provide a focal point for other stakeholders associated with the Royal Commission.
6. Undertake research into the issue of sex abuse consistent with the requirements of the Royal Commission and the Supervisory Group.

In discharging its responsibilities, the Council is to refer the following matters to the Supervisory Group for its prior consideration and approval:

- Formal submissions on behalf of the Church to the Royal Commission
- Annual budget
- Material expenditure outside the approved budget
- Changes to the existing processes and protocols operating within the Church in Australia including:



- Towards healing
  - Integrity in Ministry
  - Integrity in the Service of the Church
  - Melbourne Response
- Changes to existing structures in relation to the Church's handling of sexual/criminal abuse in Australia:
    - National Committee for Professional Standards
    - Bishops Committee for Professional Standards
    - Diocesan and Congregational Committees
    - Independent Commissioners, Compensation Panel and Carelink under the Melbourne Response noting also that the approval of the Archbishop of Melbourne will be required
7. The Council is also to refer to the Supervisory Group for its consideration any recommendations it would make in relation to amendments to the following:
- Working with Children Checks
  - Reporting to police
  - Sacrament of confession
  - Vicarious liability of Bishops and Church leaders
  - Accessing assets held by Church property trusts to pay compensation
  - Extending the Statute of Limitations
  - Introduction of criminal offences linked to the conduct of Church leaders

After consideration of the recommendations put forward, the Supervisory Group, if it deems it appropriate, will forward them to the relevant authority.

**+ Denis J Hart**  
**ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE**  
**President**  
**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

**Sister Annette Cunliffe RSC**  
**President**  
**Catholic Religious Australia**

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