

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Truth Justice Healing Council briefs leaders in Wagga Wagga

9 July 2013



Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, met with priests and leaders from Catholic education and social services in Wagga Wagga today in preparation for engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Speaking at the Wagga Diocese's Clergy Conference, led by Bishop Gerard Hanna and attended by more than 70 leaders from across the region, Mr Sullivan said abuse has cast a dark shadow over the lives of many people across Australia and that the Royal Commission has the full support of the Church as it gets on with this important work.

"The Wagga visit is part of a series of meetings across the country which aims to ensure each diocese is ready to provide documents and information to the Commission if called on to do so.

"We are cooperating fully with the Royal Commission and have already provided many documents and other information.

"It is important that parishes, schools and social services and other Catholic organisations that work with children understand that the Truth Justice Healing Council is coordinating the Church's response and that we can provide practical advice on how to engage with the Commission," Mr Sullivan said

Bishop Hanna encouraged delegates at the conference to make full use of the Council's expertise.

"I am confident that the Council will provide the advice and assistance needed to ensure that all our agencies cooperate fully with the Royal Commission," Bishop Hanna said.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has been established by the Catholic Church to coordinate the Catholic Church response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Its role is to oversee the Church's engagement with the Commission and to provide independent advice on the development of new policies to protect young people and to ensure the Catholic Church responds to any future sexual abuse complaints appropriately with justice, putting the needs of victims first.

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/Pages/default.aspx>

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