

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Australian Bishops and religious leaders remain united behind Truth Justice and Healing Council



26 December 2013

A year on from the establishment of the Truth Justice and Healing Council the support from Bishops and Religious leaders around Australia has never been stronger.

CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, Francis Sullivan, said throughout the past year all Bishops and Religious leaders had provided unqualified and unified support for the Council.

“It has been a huge year for the Catholic Church in Australia,” Mr Sullivan said.

“We have seen a dramatic shift in its response to the issues around child sexual abuse in particular the decision to take a whole of Church approach to identifying the problems and developing unified responses.

“We are also seeing huge support for the Council’s work from lay people within the Church and also religious and parish priests working on the ground.

“This change in approach is unique in the history of the Church in Australia.

“Without the unqualified support and strength of religious leaders across Australia including Cardinal Pell, Archbishops Hart and Coleridge and Sister Annette Cunliffe it would be difficult for the Church to cope with the work required of it by the Royal Commission.

“It is also through this unified position that the Church is developing the new policies and structure needed to ensure victims are treated with justice and compassion and children are as safe as possible in Church institutions.

“At the same time the calling of the Royal Commission was necessary, the reckoning for the Church is essential and our hope is that justice for victims will be the ultimate result.”

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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/>