



Our Ref: O HO 0227

7 May 2014

SURVIVORS OF ABUSE WILL RECEIVE ONGOING COUNSELLING AS LONG AS NEEDED

Unjust past settlements will be re-examined

Survivors of abuse suffered at facilities operated by the Christian Brothers will receive ongoing professional psychological counselling, for life if needed.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of public hearings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Perth.

“We have heard in the testimony of the Western Australian abuse survivors stories of intense personal pain”, said Brother Julian McDonald, Deputy Province Leader, Christian Brothers Oceania Province.

“They have borne witness to the ongoing suffering endured as a direct result of terrible failures of the past.

“The effects of their abuse are lifelong.

“Further to our 1993 public apology we reaffirm our commitment to ensure that former residents of Castledare, Bindoon, Clontarf and Tardun have access to the care and support services they need.

“As an immediate step in response to what we have witnessed here in Perth, we commit ourselves now and into the future to provide ongoing professional psychological counselling for abuse survivors of our Western Australian institutions.

“Such counselling will be provided for as long as necessary.

“We are open to re-examining cases that have been settled on demonstrably unjust and unreasonably low terms.

“We Christian Brothers restate our commitment to continue to talk and work with any victim who feels that he did not receive a fair resolution of his issues.

“We will work with survivors in a manner which responds to their individual circumstances and needs in an atmosphere of dignity, respect and compassion”, said Brother Julian McDonald, Deputy Province Leader, Christian Brothers Oceania Province.

Contact: *Julian Brophy*
0408 276 749