

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Royal Commission to hold Marist Brothers public hearing in Canberra



23 May, 2014

The way in which Marist Brothers responded to child sexual abuse in schools in the ACT, NSW and Queensland will be the subject of the Royal Commission's next public hearing.

The hearing, to be held in Canberra from Tuesday 10 June 2014, will examine the way the Brothers dealt with Brother John Chute (aka Brother Kostka) while he was in a Canberra school.

The Commission will also examine abuse perpetrated by another convicted former Brother known as KA. The abuse by both Brothers took place before 1993.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the TJHC said this latest hearing will require the Marist leadership to explain and to be fully transparent about what happened at the time and also what has been put in place since to ensure the safety of children within their care.

"This latest hearing will again bring into sharp focus the past failing of Catholic Church organisations in dealing with child sexual abuse," Mr Sullivan said.

"What will also be heard is the major changes that have taken place in schools and other institutions over the past twenty years that have improved markedly on the way survivors of abuse have been treated and child protection is undertaken."

Included in the Commission's examination will be the response of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and the reporting to police of the allegations at the time.

The hearing will also examine the settling of compensation claims by Catholic Church Insurance and the Marist Brothers.

Anyone wishing to be part of the hearing can contact the Commission through its website at <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings>

Media coverage:

[Francis Sullivan's interview with Phillip Clark](#) (23 May 2014 ABC Radio 666)

[Royal Commission to focus on Marist Brothers in Canberra](#) (23 May 2014 Canberra Times)

**Media contact:** Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

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/>

**Truth Justice and Healing Council**

PO Box 4593 KINGSTON ACT 2604 | Tel: +61 2 6234 0900 | Fax: +61 2 6234 0999