

MEDIA RELEASE

Rockhampton Diocesan Catholic Education Office student protection in-service



10 September 2014

Francis Sullivan, CEO Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, last week spoke to more than 140 participants including principals, child protection contacts and priests at the Diocese of Rockhampton's Catholic Education Student Protection in-service.

The staff, from some 40 schools across the Diocese of Rockhampton, talked about the major issues facing their communities including self-harm, 'sexting' and school absenteeism.

Bruce and Denise Morcombe, whose 13-year-old son Daniel was abducted and murdered on Queensland's Sunshine Coast in 2003, also spoke at the In-Service where they announced the 'Daniel Morcombe Curriculum' will now be taught in all Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Rockhampton.

The Curriculum aims to teach children about personal safety and awareness, including cybersafety and phone safety, by focusing on three key safety messages: Recognise, React and Report.

- The Recognise message encourages students to be aware of their surroundings and to recognise warning signs;
- The React message helps students to consider choices that may keep them safe or help make them safe again as quickly as possible;
- The Report message encourages students to report unsafe incidents to an adult.

The Curriculum was developed in consultation with Bruce and Denise Morcombe, the Queensland Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, the Department of Education, Training and Employment, Queensland Police Service and a wide range of other stakeholders.

Mr Sullivan talked to the group about the work of the Truth Justice and Healing Council and spoke about the challenges facing the Catholic Church as it moves towards providing children with greater protection in Church institutions and treating victims and survivors of child sexual abuse with justice and compassion.

He reinforced the clear message from the Director of Catholic Education (Diocese of Rockhampton), Leesa Jeffcoat, that the safety and wellbeing of the students entrusted into the Church's care is paramount.

More information about the Daniel Morcombe Curriculum here
<http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-life/child-safety-curriculum.html>

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