

MEDIA RELEASE

Catholic Church's child sex abuse spokesperson meets with parishioners in Griffith NSW



9 December 2014

More than 35 members of the Griffith community met with the CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, Francis Sullivan this week in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Griffith to hear about the child sex abuse royal commission and the Church's response.

Mr Sullivan outlined the history of child sex abuse in the Church, the Council's engagement with the Royal Commission and the Church's reform agenda designed to ensure, as far as possible that children are safe in our schools, parishes and institutions, and that survivors of abuse are treated fairly and with compassion.

"It was a great evening in Griffith with a very engaged and lively debate about our history and more importantly our future," Mr Sullivan said.

"It is always encouraging to get into the community to get feedback from people on the ground about the things that concern them.

"Every time I go to one of these meetings I am overwhelmed by the pressing urgency I pick up from ordinary Catholics for the Church to get on with reforming the way we engage with survivors of abuse.

"There is a real sense within the community, across Australia that we need to do much more before we can put our hand on heart and say 'yes we are heading in the right direction'.

Local Priest, Fr Andrew Grace, welcomed Mr Sullivan to the meeting saying the community in Griffith, like so many others around the country, wants to see the Church leadership take real action.

"The work of the Truth Justice and Healing Council is vital in mapping out a path for the future and a new approach to the many issues associated with the sexual abuse of children within the Church."

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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

For more information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>