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Truth Justice and Healing Council welcomes Pope's statement on Church sexual abuse

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, has welcomed yesterday's comments by Pope Francis calling on the Catholic Church to "act decisively" against church child sexual abuse.

The new Pontiff said the Church must promote measures to protect young people, help victims and follow due process to ensure the guilty are punished.

Mr Sullivan said the comments reinforce the way the Church in Australia is responding to the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse.

"The Pope's message is consistent with the way the Church in Australia intends to engage with the Commission," Mr Sullivan said.

"It is also in line with the Australian Church's drive to develop new consistent policies and procedures to protect children in the future.

"The Church in Australia now needs to be judged on its actions rather than its words.

"The Church must face up to the way it has responded to the victims of child sexual abuse, identify the things it must do better and provide comfort, healing and compensation," Mr Sullivan said.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has been established by the two overarching Catholic Church organisations, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia which represent dioceses and congregations across Australia.

Its role is to oversee the Church's engagement with the Royal Commission and to develop new policies and procedures to protect children in the future.

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