

MEDIA RELEASE

Sacred Heart Parish visit Melbourne



13 October 2015

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council attended Sacred Heart College in Oakleigh in Melbourne's south east last night to talk about the work of the Royal Commission and the Council.

College Principal, Chris Dalton hosted the evening which was attended by around 40 people from the local community, including parishioners, clergy and religious, and school staff. Members of families affected by abuse also attended.

Oakleigh carries the scars of infamous paedophile Kevin O'Donnell who was parish priest there for almost 20 years until his retirement in 1992.

Mr Sullivan warned against a culture of denial and of the dangers of contextualising, minimising and rationalising historical abuse in the Church.

He also talked about the Church's protocols for dealing with abuse, *Towards Healing* and *the Melbourne Response*, acknowledging that while these are not perfect, they do at least provide something for abuse survivors.

"The hearings have exposed a conflict in the Church between pastoral and administrative responsibilities," Mr Sullivan said.

"We need to move compensation for survivors away from institutions to a national redress scheme run by government but paid for by the institutions responsible for the abuse," he said.

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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: www.tjhcouncil.org.au