

MEDIA RELEASE

Truth Justice and Healing Council encourages victims of sexual abuse to contact Royal Commission

June 12, 2013



Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Council, has supported the call today by the CEO of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Ms Janette Dines, for victims to come forward and tell their stories to Commissioners.

Ms Dines, speaking on national radio this morning, has encouraged victims to meet face-to-face in private sessions with Commissioners as they travel around Australia. The Commissioners are in Brisbane today.

Around the nation some 1,400 people are scheduled to come forward to talk about their experiences in different institutions across Australia.

The private hearings are a relatively informal process in which victims can talk to one or two Commissioners. A trained counsellor is also in attendance at the private hearing if victims become distressed or need assistance.

Mr Sullivan said it is vital that victims get to tell their stories.

“The Royal Commission is an opportunity for victims and survivors of sexual abuse to come forward and be heard in an environment of support and safety,” Mr Sullivan said.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has been established by the Catholic Church to help the Church’s response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Its role is to oversee the Church’s engagement with the Royal Commission, to develop new policies to protect young people and to ensure the Church responds to any future complaints appropriately, with justice and putting the needs of victims first.

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

The full interview with Ms Dines can be heard at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/royal-commission-moves-on-to-brisbane/4747934>