



Our Ref: O HO 0227

Statement from the Christian Brothers – Royal Commission, Ballarat

22 May 2015

“As the Leader of the Christian Brothers Oceania, I am humbled by what I have seen and heard over recent days”, said Brother Peter Clinch, Province Leader, Christian Brothers Oceania

“Each day I have listened as brave people spoke openly of the terrible things that happened to them and the suffering they, their families and their community have endured.

“Their evidence deserves the most serious consideration and response, which I promise them.

“To all who gave evidence, and to all on whose behalf they spoke, I want you to know that I have heard you.

“I acknowledge the abuse you have suffered and the enormous pain it continues to cause you. I respect the courage and bravery you have shown.

“I have also heard from some who have not previously contacted the Christian Brothers for acknowledgement or help. I reiterate my invitation to contact us.

“I give you my assurance that you will be treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

“You were tragically failed as children by those who were meant to protect you.

“To you and the community of Ballarat, with humility and profound sadness, I apologise for what happened”, said Brother Clinch.

Ends

Any person who has suffered past abuse is encouraged to make contact with our Professional Standards Office in Melbourne on (03) 8359 0134.

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