

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC welcomes release of Royal Commission findings into the Melbourne Response



14 September, 2015

The Truth Justice and Healing Council welcomes the release of the Royal Commission's final report into case study 16, which has examined the way in which the Archdiocese of Melbourne has responded to victims of child sexual abuse within the Archdiocese.

The report, released on Monday 14 September, 2015, follows a public hearing held in Melbourne August 2014.

The public hearing examined the principles, practices and procedures of the victim's reparation scheme, the Melbourne Response, which was adopted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne in October 1996.

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the report had made a range of comments on personnel involved with the administration of the Melbourne Response and advisors to the Archdiocese.

"While the report does not contain any adverse findings or recommendations, it has been critical of the independence of the process, potential for conflict of interest and advice relating to police reporting.

"What is very significant also is that this report has been released on the same day as the Commission's report on redress.

"While the Melbourne Response has provided redress and assistance to many survivors of child sexual abuse it is now important governments around Australia take up the recommendations of the Royal Commission and institute a national redress scheme," Mr Sullivan said.

The Commission's report on the Melbourne Response can be found here

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/232af799-8292-4709-a392-5d8bc7d3e77c/Report-of-Case-Study-No-16>

Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

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/>

Truth Justice and Healing Council

PO Box 4593 KINGSTON ACT 2604 | Tel: +61 2 6234 0900 | Fax: +61 2 6234 0999