

MEDIA RELEASE

Jesuits release new child protection policy



14 September 2015

The Australian Province of the Society of Jesus has released a major new policy document detailing the practice and procedure to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse within its care.

The policy is a comprehensive document designed to ensure that anyone in the care of or involved with the Province is provided a safe and supporting environment.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council welcomed the release of the new policy saying it reflects the changing awareness and approaches to ensuring children are safe in Catholic institutions.

"This is a major piece of work that will go a long way to lifting the shadow of abuse through transparency, genuine contrition and meaningful reconciliation," he said.

"Having the best practice in terms of policy and procedures in place minimises the possibility of abuse occurring in the first place.

"It is also crucially important that all Catholic institutions help people who have been the victims of sexual abuse and who have suffered through the crimes of Church personnel."

The policy deals with issues such as professional conduct and awareness, recruitment and selection practices, duty of care, reporting and disclosures, and responding to abuse survivors.

It covers all Province ministries and applies to Province members, including in relation to any ministries or works they may conduct which are not Province ministries; and Province personnel.

The policy has been developed with the assistance of the internationally renowned child protection expert, Dr Kathleen McChesney.

Read the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus:

<http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au/media/106509/SJ-PS-POLICY-Sept-2015-VRN-1-0-FV.pdf>

The new Jesuit policy follows the release earlier this year by the Christian Brothers Oceania of guiding principles for responding to civil claims of child sexual abuse.

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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.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

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