

MEDIA RELEASE

New Child Protection Office for Archdiocese of Sydney



30 September 2015

Anthony Fisher, the Archbishop of Sydney, has announced a new child protection office as part of a widespread Archdiocesan review.

The new Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office will work to achieve best practice when dealing with child protection, education, training, working with parishes and responding pastorally to survivors of abuse.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council welcomed the announcement saying this latest initiative clearly shows Catholic Church leaders are responding strongly to the stories and evidence coming from the Royal Commission.

"Archbishop Fisher and his team need to be congratulated for their work to strengthen the protections they have in place for children in the Archdiocese.

"This is an important initiative that clearly indicates an understanding that Church leaders must deliver action and outcomes not just words.

Headed by internationally renowned child protection expert, Ms Karen Larkman, the new office will work closely with government statutory bodies including the NSW Ombudsman and the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.

The office will also focus on child sexual abuse survivors providing innovative, strategic and compassionate pathways to assist victims and protect the vulnerable.

"We must deliver more than words. We must deliver action and outcomes. I think our new Director will help us greatly in delivering those outcomes," Archbishop Fisher said.

Ms Larkman will begin her role as Director of the new office on 16 November 2015.

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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

For more information on the Royal Commission go to:

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

