

MEDIA RELEASE

Governments start to move on child sex abuse redress scheme



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Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, has welcomed reports a national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse will be on the agenda for November's Council of Australian Governments meeting.

The reports follow state and territory attorneys-general sending a joint letter last Friday to federal Attorney-General, George Brandis, seeking clarification of the commonwealth's position on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse proposed redress scheme.

The letter calls for 'earliest possible indication from the Commonwealth as to whether it intends to establish and fund a national redress scheme' for abuse victims.

AAP and other media outlets are reporting 'attorneys-general from the states and territories will meet with George Brandis the day before the full council meeting to work out an approach to providing justice for abuse survivors'.

Francis Sullivan said the pressure on the federal government to play a role in establishing and operating a national redress scheme is mounting.

"The time has come for government action," Mr Sullivan said.

"Since Commissioner McClellan released his redress consultation paper in January which proposed a national redress scheme administered by the federal government but funded by the institutions responsible for the abuse, survivors groups, church organisations and many others have been waiting for a response from the Commonwealth Government.

"The government now needs to lay out how it intends to respond to the commission's recommendations and confirm this important social issue will be part of November's COAG meeting.

"Abuse survivors deserve to know what the government intends to do," Mr Sullivan said.

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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 information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>