

MEDIA RELEASE

Federal Labor commits to national redress scheme



27 October 2015

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed today's announcement from the Federal Opposition that it will establish a National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Federal Labor says if elected it will invest \$33 million to implement the National Redress Scheme.

This includes an initial \$20 million to establish the National Redress Agency, as well as a National Redress Advisory Council to work with all governments and institutions on the development and operation of the scheme.

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the Opposition's announcement was the first concrete commitment from a political party, state or Federal, to the Royal Commission's redress proposals.

"Unfortunately it is our current elected representatives that need to be making commitments to a redress scheme," Mr Sullivan said.

"The Federal Government needs to be consulting not just with other state and territory governments but with all institutions that will be part of a national redress scheme.

"For decades abuse survivors have been waiting for justice and while it is important to have bi-partisan support for a redress scheme we need to see and hear what the Government plans to do.

"Both political parties have shown support for the Commission but now is the time to take action and move beyond the rhetoric and make some fundamental changes.

"Labor established the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in 2013. Its initial three-year term was extended by the Coalition Government last year.

"We very much look forward to hearing how the Commonwealth Government will respond to the Commission's redress proposals.

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Francis Sullivan is available for media comment.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: www.tjhcouncil.org.au