

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC welcomes NSW and Victorian Government support for national child sexual abuse redress scheme



5 November 2015

The Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed reports today the [New South Wales](#) and Victoria Governments have thrown their support behind the Royal Commission's proposal for a national redress scheme for child sexual abuse survivors.

The CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, Francis Sullivan, said with today's announce there now seems to be an inevitability about the Royal Commission's redress scheme becoming a reality.

"With the NSW and Victorian Government and the Catholic Church now on the record supporting the proposal, abuse survivors can have some hope that fair, equitable and easy to access redress might not be far off," Mr Sullivan said.

"The NSW and Victorian Governments and the Catholic Church account for roughly 75 percent of the cost of the ten-year scheme so there is no longer any excuse for other institutions, particularly other state governments, not to become part of the scheme," Mr Sullivan said.

As part of the Royal Commission's redress proposal released in August the scheme would be funded by the institutions where the abuse occurred, including a proportion that would be funded by state governments where abuse occurred in a state-run facility.

The scheme would also offer counselling and psychological care, and a response from the institution if requested.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council also supports an insurance levy on all institutions that work with children, including churches, to provide a pool of funds to ensure that all survivors get access to redress even if the institution in which they were abused no longer exists.

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: www.tjhcouncil.org.au