

# MEDIA RELEASE

## TJHC in conversation with Victorian Catholic School Principals and more...



17 February 2016

Principals from Victorian Catholic secondary schools joined Francis Sullivan in conversation in Melbourne last Friday to talk about the challenges for Catholic schools in the light of the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse and the Truth Justice and Healing Council.

Speaking to around 65 of the 100 Victorian Catholic secondary school principals Mr Sullivan challenged the group as lay leaders in the Church to question the Church structures that have enabled and covered up the abuse of children and other vulnerable people in our parishes, schools and other institutions.

He encouraged the leaders to feel less obliged to tow the company line and to focus more on their role as a Church community expressing the ministry of education.

Outlining the work of the Council Mr Sullivan discussed plans for a new supervising structure that will set, audit and report on standards that affect children and vulnerable people. Hopes for a national redress scheme that would assess allegations and determine payments independently of the institution responsible were also discussed.

Meanwhile he will meet this week with representatives at the Lismore Diocese on the mid north coast of NSW to talk about safeguarding measures, the Diocese of Broken Bay and Wilcannia Forbes to talk about the proposed new supervising structure, and the Queensland Professional Standards Network.

And earlier this week, Mr Sullivan met with his counterpart at Scouts Australia to discuss emerging issues for both organisations from the work of the Royal Commission.

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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.*

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