

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC in conversation with the Sunbury community



2 June 2016

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council joined around 80 people from the Sunbury community in Melbourne's north west this week in conversation about the issue of child sex abuse and particularly the Church's response to victims.

Hosted by the Salesians, the quarterly twilight event aims to tackle difficult questions and is open to the broader community around the Rupertswood school, which was the epicentre of the Order's crimes.

Mr Sullivan said while the community has already put in place processes and gathering places centred on healing, there's a heaviness about the history of the place, and that forums such as this are helpful.

"There's a fear of what happened and the only way to deal with that is to bring it into the light, to talk about it.

"Very few Catholics have been given this chance. These events are important and the more the better.

"It's important to understand people are confident that the school today is a very different place and families feel their children are safe," Mr Sullivan said.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council engages with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on behalf of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Media contact: Judith Tolley 0408 824 306