

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Churches meet on redress



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Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council was among Church leaders who met in Canberra this week to talk about redress for survivors of institutional child sex abuse.

Discussion focused on the urgent need for a nationally consistent scheme and possible mechanisms for how that might happen.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Sullivan said the Federal Government's distance on this issue is concerning.

"The Royal Commission released its recommendations in September last year, and still we've heard nothing of any substance from the Government.

"It's a worry that in this election campaign, where costings on tax concessions keep blowing out, the Government can't or won't make the relatively modest commitment to a national scheme," he said.

The meeting in Canberra, hosted by the Uniting Church in Australia, was attended by around 12 people from across the major churches nationally.

In its submission to the Royal Commission's issues paper in March 2015, the Truth Justice and Healing Council supported the Royal Commission's call for an independent national redress scheme funded by the institutions responsible for the abuse. The Council joined other organisations, including ACOSS earlier this year repeating the call for a national scheme and continues to advocate on this issue.

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 Tokley 0408 824 306