

MEDIA RELEASE



Catholic Church leader to hear concerns and answer questions from Mount Gambier community about child sexual abuse in Catholic Church

22 June 2016

The CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, Mr Francis Sullivan, will meet with community members, Catholic parishioners and others in Mount Gambier on Wednesday 29 June to answer questions and talk about the child sexual abuse Royal Commission and the history of abuse in the Catholic Church.

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's response to the Royal Commission and is also driving the Church's reform agenda.

Mr Sullivan will listen to the many questions and concerns parishioners and community members have about child sexual abuse in the Church. He will also outline a range of new initiatives that have been put in place across the Church over the past three years.

These include changes to the way civil claims of child sexual abuse are dealt with by church leaders; calls for a national independent redress scheme for abuse survivors; a new structure to develop, monitor and report on child and vulnerable adult safety standards in Catholic organisations; and more.

Mr Sullivan said he is looking forward to meeting with members of the Mount Gambier community, hearing their concerns and answering questions about the Royal Commission, the historic response of Church leaders and more recent changes.

'It is always encouraging to come to these meetings and hear how ordinary people on the streets and in the pews are responding to the Royal Commission and to the changes being made in the Church.

'The Catholic Church has an appalling history of child sexual abuse in its parishes, its schools and other places.

'While much has been done over the past three years and major changes have taken place to the way in which church leaders respond to child sexual abuse claims since the mid-1990s more needs to be done,' Mr Sullivan said ahead of the meeting.

The community meeting, to be held in the Mount Gambier Parish Hall, has been organised by Parish Priest Fr Dean Marin at the request of local Catholics. All are welcome to attend.

What Community meeting to discuss the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Where Parish Hall, 26 Penola Road, Mount Gambier
When Wednesday 29 June 2016, 7.30pm – All welcome
Contact: Fr Dean Marin, Parish Priest of Mount Gambier and Millicent, Tel: (08) 8725 6566
Email: drfmarin@bigpond.com

TJHC Media contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

Truth Justice and Healing Council

PO Box 4593 KINGSTON ACT 2604 | Tel: +61 2 6234 0900 | Fax: +61 2 6234 0999