

MEDIA RELEASE



TJHC meets with St Vincent de Paul National Council in Darwin

23 July 2016

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council met with 12 members of the St Vincent de Paul Society's National Council in Darwin this week to explore the general findings of the Royal Commission to date.

Speaking shortly after the meeting, Mr Sullivan said delegates were particularly interested in implications for St Vincent de Paul nationally and how the Royal Commission findings might affect the services provided to many disadvantaged Australians.

Possible changes to the law and administrative and compliance regimes were of particular interest.

Mr Sullivan outlined the Council's reform efforts, including the call for a national redress scheme that will provide a fairer, more transparent approach to compensation for victims of abuse across all Australian institutions.

He also spoke about the progress of work on an independent body that will set, monitor and publicly report on standards in the Catholic Church in Australia.

In light of the new standards body, the St Vincent De Paul Council was keen to hear about what might constitute best practice and how that might be established.

Discussion also focused on the best way to educate and raise awareness among volunteers about a child safe environment.

Mr Sullivan pointed to the significant work that has already been done, both by the Royal Commission and the Truth Justice and Healing Council on around these issues, but said a lot more detail will hopefully emerge as the Royal Commission concludes its work by the end of 2017.

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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.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

For more information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

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