

Media Release



Marist Brothers' Province of Australia

Statement from the Marist Brothers' Province of Australia – Royal Commission

27 July 2016

The Marist Brothers' Province of Australia fully supports the important work of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

Today the Royal Commission has announced an inquiry to be conducted in Newcastle commencing 29 August 2016 and which will focus on:

- *The experience of survivors of child sexual abuse by Catholic clergy and religious in the Maitland-Newcastle region.*
- *The response of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle to allegations of child sexual abuse made against Father Vincent Ryan.*
- *The response of the Marist Brothers to allegations of child sexual abuse made against Marist Brothers including Francis Cable (Brother Romuald) and Thomas Butler (Brother Patrick).*
- *The impacts of child sexual abuse on survivors, families, and the community in the Maitland-Newcastle region.*
- *Any related matters.*

“The Marist Brothers' Province has cooperated fully with the Royal Commission on past case studies and continues to do so with respect to the case study and public hearing announced in Newcastle”, said Marist Brothers' Provincial, Brother Peter Carroll fms.

“We hope that this hearing will give those who have suffered so greatly due to the actions of some brothers, the chance to tell their own story and attain some level of healing.

“We reiterate our sincere and unreserved apology to those who have suffered as a result of past abuse at our facilities.

“That these events took place and children were subjected to abuse by those responsible for their protection and welfare is a matter of great sorrow and enduring regret for all Marist Brothers.

“We reach out with care and compassion to those who have been harmed as a result of past actions and whose lives have been damaged by past criminal behaviour. We restate our commitment to walk with them on their journey of healing.

“We gently encourage anyone who may have suffered past abuse to contact the Professional Standards Office of the Marist Brothers on + 61 2 9218 4000 for assistance”, said Brother Carroll.

Ends

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