

MEDIA RELEASE

Members of Commonwealth's independent child sexual abuse redress Advisory Council announced



16 December 2016

The Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council has welcomed today's announcement from Attorney-General, George Brandis of the 15-member Commonwealth independent child sexual abuse redress Advisory Council.

The Council will provide expert advice to the Commonwealth as it designs and implements a national redress scheme for the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council and an appointee to the redress council, said this is an important step in establishing a nation redress scheme.

"Today's announcement signals the start of what will be a very intense time," Mr Sullivan said.

"There is now enormous pressure on the Government to get a national scheme up and running as soon as possible while at the same time trying to bring on board all state governments and institutions.

"The Catholic Church is on the record saying it will be part of the scheme which must be designed to deliver fair and equitable redress to survivors regardless of when or where they were abused.

"This is an important step forward in achieving justice and compassion for survivors," Mr Sullivan said.

The 15 member Council, appointed by the Prime Minister, will provide advice on:

- the governing principles that underpin the scheme;
- elements of the scheme's design, that may include eligibility and the principles around the processes of application, assessment, psychological counselling and direct personal response;
- how to best encourage state, territory and non-government institution participation in the scheme; and
- how the Commonwealth scheme will interact with other redress schemes.

The Council includes survivors of institutional abuse and representatives from support organisations, as well as legal and psychological experts, Indigenous and disability experts, institutional interest groups and those with a background in government.

Read Attorney-General announcement here:

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2016/FourthQuarter/Redress-for-survivors-of-institutional-child-sexual-abuse-members-of-independent-advisory-council-announced.aspx>

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The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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