

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC addresses meeting of lay Catholics in Perth and Directors of Catholic Education in Sydney



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Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, met with the National Directors of Catholic Education in Sydney this week prior to the release of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The workshop, which was well attended, examined ramifications for church organisations in relation to governance and best practice in education.

It also looked at elements of church culture that have potentially been a problem.

“The workshop led to robust and constructive conversation which the directors acknowledge will be the first of many as the Royal Commission’s recommendations are released and implications start to sink in,” Mr Sullivan said.

Last week TJHC CEO called on grass roots Catholics in the Perth Archdiocese to take up the challenge of Pope Francis and be a church that is engaged, inclusive and messy.

Speaking at a meeting of around 80 people, hosted by Community of the Way at Trinity College in Perth, Mr Sullivan said the revelations from the Royal Commission have been devastating not only for victims and survivors of sexual abuse, but for the whole church community.

“While church hierarchy must address the recommendations from the Royal Commission, it is also up to lay people to push for change and to hold the leadership accountable,” Mr Sullivan said.

“In the lead up to the 2020 Plenary Council, its important that all Catholics are heard, and that is only going to happen if people like yourselves find a voice and contribute,” he said.

People who attended asked how ordinary Catholics can influence the agenda of the Plenary Council. The also sought clarification on canon law, the seal of confession and training and formation of priests.

Community of the Way, is a group of Catholics in the Perth Archdiocese concerned about the future of their Church.

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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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