

The Australian

Abuse royal commission: government must act on recommendations, Catholic Church says

John Ferguson
The Australian
December 12, 2017



Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council says Malcolm Turnbull must lead the way in ensuring the abuse royal commission's report is not lost.

The Turnbull government cannot afford to bury the recommendations of the child sex abuse royal commission over summer, the Catholic Church warned today.

The church's Truth, Justice and Healing Council chief executive Francis Sullivan called for a Council of Australian Governments committee to be formed to implement the report recommendations.

Mr Sullivan said Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull should lead the way to ensure the report is not lost amid the people debate of the day.

He said the was expected to be released publicly on Friday.

"The Prime Minister has to show that this report is going to be taken 100 per cent seriously, that it's not going to be put in a drawer," Mr Sullivan said.

"Governments should consider announcing the establishment of a joint COAG working party very soon after the release of the report, then institutions and others need to set up their own implementation processes to engage with the government process.

"We cannot afford for this to get lost over the summer, to get shouted down by the current political point scoring that's going on.

“How many times have we seen extensive, historic processes, which could and should contribute significantly to public policy development, effectively binned because governments can’t get their act together?”

“The Catholic Church is currently considering how best to manage its response to the Commission’s final report and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a careful, systematic government response that could include valuable contributions.”

The government is not expected to respond formally to the report for months.

The Australian has sought comment from Attorney-General George Brandis