

MEDIA RELEASE

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Catholic Professional Standards Limited welcomes Royal Commission's final report

Catholic Professional Standards Limited (CPSL), a new, independent, child protection standards setting body for the Catholic Church, has welcomed the release of the final report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

CPSL has been established by the Catholic Church leadership in response to the revelations of child sexual abuse and institutional failures throughout the past five years of Royal Commission hearings.

CPSL will be developing new standards to protect children and vulnerable people across the Catholic Church. It will also audit and publically report on the compliance of each Church leader, including bishops and congregation leaders, against these new national standards and existing statutory standards.

Ms Sheree Limbrick, CEO of CPSL, said the Commission's report is momentous work.

"Along with the five years of hearings and other activities, this report and the subsequent reforms by both institutions and government will make Australian schools, parishes, welfare agencies and other institutions safer for children," Ms Limbrick said.

"We are all indebted to the work of the Commissioners and their staff. We are also very much in the debt of the thousands of survivors who have come forward to tell their stories and to help the Commission do its work," she said.

CPSL has been established with an independent Board of Directors, none of whom are drawn from the clergy or the religious orders.

CPSL's primary function is to establish and audit standards for the protection of children and vulnerable people who come into contact with the Church in Australia, initially focusing on standards to protect children.

"The Royal Commission and this final report provides the Catholic Church and many other institutions with the blue print and impetus to make long-term, major changes," Ms Limbrick said.

"We are committed to making Catholic Church organisations, parishes, schools, ministries and community services safe places for children and vulnerable people," she said.

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