

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC calls on all states and for the Catholic Church in NSW and Victoria to join child abuse redress scheme



9 March 2018

The Chief Executive of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council, Mr Francis Sullivan, has urged all states to sign up to the national child sexual abuse redress, scheme noting that Catholic leaders are on the record saying they will join the scheme.

'Today's announcement paves the way for non-government organisations in NSW and Victoria to join the scheme,' Mr Sullivan said.

'This would include Catholic dioceses and other Catholic Church organisations in NSW and Victoria providing access for survivors abused in Catholic institutions in these states to seek redress.

'And while Church leaders are yet to see the exact details of how the scheme will work, there has been wide-spread in-principal support from Church authorities', he said.

Mr Sullivan said that for the scheme to become truly national other state and territory leaders must act.

'This national scheme will provide a consistent and fair response to victims of abuse no matter where or when the abuse occurred. It will be relatively straight forward for survivors compared to litigation, and it is available to survivors abused by people who have died.

'We, along with others have advocated to Federal and state attorneys general and relevant ministers, for a generous, national scheme where redress is paid for by the institution responsible for the abuse.

'Survivors of abuse have been hanging their hopes on this scheme for a long, long time.

'Many have died without the apologies and the redress that should have been theirs many years ago,' Mr Sullivan said.

Media Contact: Michael Salmon 0417 495 018