

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Truth Justice Healing Council update on submissions to Royal Commission

3 September 2013



Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, has today released an update on the progress of the Council's three current submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse.

Mr Sullivan said he expected the Commissioners would release more than 20 issues papers dealing with different aspects of child protection over the coming years.

"The Council's submissions to the Commission is a whole of Church response and will be a comprehensive statement on the current church environment. Submissions will include recommendations for reforms.

"We are consulting widely across church agencies and with religious orders and dioceses. We will provide regular updates on the progress of our submissions," Mr Sullivan said.

### **Issues Paper No 3: Child Safe Institutions**

The consultation draft is currently being written and will be available for broad consultation across church agencies and leadership on Friday 6 September for comment by Friday 20 September. An informal working group from across social services, education, employment relations and professional standards is contributing to the consultation draft. The submission will be lodged with the Royal Commission on Friday 11 October.

### **Issues Paper No 2: Towards Healing**

The consultation draft has been completed and will be distributed to church leadership and agencies on Wednesday 11 September for comment by 20 September. The content of the draft is informed by a Taskforce including representatives from professional standards, the Truth Justice and Healing Council and legal representatives. The submission will be lodged on Monday 30 September.

### **Issues Paper No 1: Working With Children Checks**

This issues paper was released on 17 June 2013. Submissions closed 12 August 2013.

Final submissions from the Truth Justice and Healing Council are available on the Council's website: <http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au/royal-commission/tjh-council-submissions.aspx>

The Truth Justice and Healing Council was established by the Catholic Church to coordinate the Church's response to the Royal Commission.

Its role is to oversee the Church's engagement with the Commission, to develop new policies to protect young people and to help the Church respond to any future complaints appropriately and with justice, putting the needs of victims first.

**For more information on TJHC submissions please contact Judith Tokley, Manager Media and Stakeholder Relations: 02 6234 0908 / [Judith.tokley@tjhcouncil.org.au](mailto:Judith.tokley@tjhcouncil.org.au)**

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