

MEDIA RELEASE

Video of Francis Sullivan Ballarat speech on line



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The Truth Justice and Healing Council has today posted a video of the Council's CEO, Francis Sullivan, delivering a major speech to more than 100 people at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall in Ballarat on November 20, 2013.

In a wide ranging speech Mr Sullivan called on all Catholics to take some responsibility for how the Church responds to the Royal Commission and the way in which it engages with victims of sexual abuse.

"There have been many heinous, despicable crimes committed by people in the Church," Mr Sullivan said.

"A large number have been brought to justice. Others have covered up those crimes, put the Church's interests before those of victims' and compounded their suffering.

"As the community of believers who make up the Church, we were not responsible for past crimes and cover ups, but we are responsible for how we respond and react to them." he said

The speech also covered the proposed national compensation scheme for victims of child sexual abuse, legal issues associated with suing the Church for sexual abuse, the Council's proposed reform agenda and the commitment to victims made in the Church's *Towards Healing* submission to the Royal Commission.

Community and parish members, victims and survivors, priests and religious attended the speech.

The Catholic Church will be the focus of the Royal Commission hearings for two weeks from Monday December 9 when four case studies dealing with its victim's reparation and pastoral scheme, *Towards Healing*, are examined.

The video of the Ballarat speech can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4ByIoLGINg>

Post speech commentary from the audience can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-f7_f5Hng4

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The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

For more information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>