

# MEDIA RELEASE



## TJHC welcomes Royal Commission interim report and supports extended timetable and funding

30 June 2014

Truth Justice and Healing Council CEO, Francis Sullivan, has welcomed the release of the interim report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse saying the Commission must be given the time and resources it needs to complete its investigations.

The report was tabled in Federal Parliament this afternoon (Monday 30 June 2014).

Commissioner Peter McClellan has asked the Federal Government to provide another \$104 million and a further two years to complete the Commission's investigations into how institutions across Australia have responded to allegation of child sexual abuse.

The time extension would see the Commission complete its final report by 15 December 2017. The extension would allow for another 30 public hearing beyond the 40 anticipated by the end of 2015.

Mr Sullivan said the work of the Royal Commission must be allowed to continue until the Commissioners are fully satisfied the work is complete.

"This is a major social issue for our nation and we need the investment of both time and money to give the security to the community that institutions have been brought to account and victims have been given adequate time to tell their stories and to access support.

"To not finish the job properly and completely would be an insult to all the victims of abuse and one of the greatest lost opportunities of our generation.

"Governments around Australia must now back in the work of the Royal Commission with the establishment of a national compensation scheme for victims and nationally consistent child protection laws and standards of compliance for all government and non-government institutions.

"This is a once in a life time chance for the community to fully understand the devastation of child sexual abuse, its historic pervasion into so many different institutions and steps needed to ensure past tragedies are never revisited.

"Until the Commissioners and the broader community are satisfied that everything possible has been learnt about how institutions have responded to child sexual abuse allegations in the past and how children can be best protected in the future this Royal Commission must continue.

**Media contact:** Michael Salmon 0417 495 018

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](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au)

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