

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC meets St Charles Borromeo Parishioners in Sydney



25 July, 2014

CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, Mr Francis Sullivan met with more than 120 people this week at the St Charles Borromeo Parish school hall to discuss the Catholic Church reform agenda and the struggle to understanding the extent of child sex abuse within the church.

In one of the biggest parish meetings attended by Mr Sullivan since the start of the Royal Commission, Mr Sullivan answered questions highlighting the frustration parishioners feel with the way the crisis has been handled by church leaders.

Mr Sullivan said the passion and commitment the parish is showing as it confronts this major problem head on is clear.

“The questions from the floor revealed a deep hurt and strong desire to care for survivors and reform the Church.

“It is encouraging to see the priority given in this Parish to concerns about child sexual abuse.

“The organisers, those who gathered for the discussion and Parish Priest Father Paul Monkerud are clearly committed to raising the concerns of local Catholics and contributing to this important reform process.

“They continue to voice their anger, to share their fears and frustration and to express their concerns.

“The meeting last week follows a similar gathering not long after the Royal Commission was announced when the parish came together to discuss and brainstorm the clerical sex abuse crisis in the Church.

“St Charles Borromeo Parish has been at the forefront in discussing and raising concerns of child sex abuse in the Church,” Mr Sullivan said.

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

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