

MEDIA RELEASE

New Victorian provisions for the reporting to Police of child sexual abuse



29 October 2014

New criminal provisions for the reporting to police of possible sexual offences against children have come into force in Victoria.

The provisions came into force from Monday 27 October 2014.

CEO of the Catholic Church's Truth Justice and Healing Council said it is important for anyone who obtains information about possible child sexual abuse to be aware of the new laws.

"If you have any doubt at all about what the law is in Victoria or anywhere else then the default position must be to report your concerns to the police," Mr Sullivan said.

Section 327 of the Victorian Crimes Act now makes it an offence for an adult (whether in Victoria or elsewhere) who has information leading them to form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria by an adult against a child to fail to disclose the information to a member of the Victoria Police.

The offence is subject to a number of exceptions including:

- Where the information is given by the victim of the alleged sexual offence and that person is over 16 at the time of providing the information, is not suffering from an intellectual disability and requests that the information not be disclosed;
- Where the information comes solely through the public domain.
- Where the victim of the alleged abuse was 16 or older on 27 October 2014.

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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 TJHC go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

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