

MEDIA RELEASE

TJHC CEO meets with national leaders in Catholic education



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Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, met with members of the National Catholic Education Commission in Sydney on Thursday to discuss emerging issues relevant to Catholic schools, as the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse continues its work.

Mr Sullivan outlined the Council's reform agenda and the importance of a transparent, consistent approach to the way all Church organisations approach child protection.

"We are working towards a new national body, independent of the Church that will set, monitor and report on child protection measures in all Catholic institutions," Mr Sullivan said.

"It's important that all Catholic organisations get on with necessary changes to policies and procedures to ensure they are not just complying with the requirements of their local jurisdiction, but leading the way.

"We can't afford to wait for the Royal Commission to hand down its findings, which could take another three or four years," Mr Sullivan said.

"I encourage school principals to actively engage with parents to see how they are feeling about what's coming out of the Royal Commission and to feed back into our consultation processes through their school principals," Mr Sullivan said.

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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/>