

MEDIA RELEASE

Royal Commission announces public hearing into redress for survivors of child sexual abuse



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The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has today announced details of its public hearing into possible redress schemes for survivors of child sexual abuse.

The hearing will enable institutions and governments to outline their position on redress for survivors of child sexual abuse particularly in light of the Commission's major redress consultation paper released in January this year.

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Catholic Church Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the hearing will be one of the significant milestones in the work of the Royal Commission.

"The issue of redress is at the very heart of the Commission's work," Mr Sullivan said.

"During this hearing we will hear from institutions, including the Catholic Church, on how fair and just redress could, and should, be delivered to abuse survivors.

"We will also hear, hopefully, from Governments around Australia, on how they intend to approach redress for survivors of abused in government-run homes, orphanages and other institutions.

"The Commission's preferred option of a single national redress scheme led by the Australian Government with the participation of state and territory governments and non-government institutions is broadly in line with the Church's submission on redress.

"This scheme would also provide for counselling, psychological care and other services, again, paid for by the responsible institutions.

"It would effectively provide consistent, easy access to redress for all survivors of child sexual abuse regardless of where or when the abuse occurred," Mr Sullivan said.

The hearing will commence Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 10:00am in Sydney and will be streamed live at www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au.

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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

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