

MEDIA RELEASE

Truth Justice and Healing Council CEO meets Townsville Bishop and other locals

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Mr Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Council, visited Queensland last week to meet with the Townsville bishop, Michael Putney, other clergy and lay people from the Townsville dioceses to discuss the Royal Commission into Child sexual abuse.

Mr Sullivan said he was buoyed by the overwhelming positive nature of the meeting.

“Everyone I met realised the opportunity to embrace the Royal Commission and be part of a healing, reconciliation process. To let the truth come forward so victims could get a fair go.

“Many important issues were discussed, particularly the complex issue of retrieving documents and files for the Royal Commission.

“Throughout the day we also talked about the process of the Royal Commission and our understanding of the public and private hearings,” Mr Sullivan said.

Bishop Putney said the meetings provided valuable information about the Royal Commission and the role of the Truth Justice and Healing Council.

“The Catholic Church has committed to being open and transparent with the Royal Commission and this is a position I back 100 per cent.

“During the Royal Commission the stories of many victims will be heard.

“These stories will be traumatic and confronting but victims need to be listened to and they need to know the Church is ashamed and repentant about how they have been treated.

“Once again I offer my sincere apologies to anyone harmed in our diocese and I commit to fully engaging with the Royal Commission to ensure the truth is heard and victims receive justice.”

The Truth Justice and Healing Council has been established by the Catholic Church to help the Church response to the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Its role is to oversee the Church's engagement with the Commission, to develop new policies to protect young people and to ensure the Church responds to any future complaints appropriately with justice, putting the needs of victims first.

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