

MEDIA RELEASE

14 November 2012

Jesuit Social Services welcomes Royal Commission into child sexual abuse

The CEO of Jesuit Social Services, Julie Edwards, has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse. "We recognise the profound pain and anguish that has been inflicted upon the victims of child sexual abuse, and how this has been made worse by the failure to respond adequately to this abuse", Ms Edwards said.

In its submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sexual abuse, Jesuit Social Services made the observation that, "trust and confidence will only be rebuilt when religious and other community organisations are fully transparent and allow themselves to be scrutinised by the public."

Ms Edwards said, "Through our work we have seen the enduring and damaging legacy of abuse. In our Support After Suicide program, for example, we work with a number of people who are grieving the suicide of a loved one whose life had been impacted by abuse, including abuse by clergy.

"As we made clear in our Victorian submission, we believe that scrutiny through the inquiry has the potential to be a significant part of the healing process for those affected by abuse. This can only be strengthened by a Royal Commission", said Ms Edwards.

Jesuit Social Services is a not-for-profit organisation which works to build a just society by advocating for social change and promoting the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, families and communities.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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