

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
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CATHOLIC CHURCH JOINS NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, said today that he was pleased the Catholic Church in Australia has been able to confirm it will join the national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse.

Archbishop Fisher's comments follow an announcement earlier today from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and Sister Ruth Durick OSU, President of Catholic Religious Australia, that Catholic dioceses and religious orders will enter the redress scheme as soon as possible.

"We know that an independent, national redress scheme is not only one of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission, it is also an initiative supported by survivors of sexual abuse, their families and advocates," Archbishop Fisher said.

"The Archdiocese of Sydney along with other dioceses and religious orders and the Truth Justice and Healing Council have long supported an independent, national scheme, but could not formally join until commitments had been received from the federal and state governments.

"With the Commonwealth and most of the states having now agreed to join, and legislation being passed in New South Wales, it is possible for us to confirm our long held commitment that up until now we have only been able to make in principle.

"My hope is that today's announcement will be a source of relief and reassurance for survivors of abuse, who have been waiting for the Church's formal response on redress, and that we can move forward in the implementation of the scheme so that they can continue to receive the assistance they need."

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