

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

26 September 2018

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NSW SUPPORTS CIVIL REFORMS FOR CHLD ABUSE SURVIVORS

The Catholic Church in NSW supports reforms by the NSW Government which will make it easier for child abuse survivors to access the civil justice system.

Since last year, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has been consulting with the state government about civil litigation and criminal justice law reform.

These discussions, supported by the ten other Catholic dioceses of New South Wales, have sought the establishment of legal entities with sufficient assets to meet claims to be put forward as proper defendants.

“I support the government’s new civil litigation laws. I am also optimistic our current discussions with the government will result in all NSW dioceses having legal entities that provide certainty, transparency and permanence, along with the financial ability to meet the claims of clerical sexual abuse survivors,” the Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP said.

The Archbishop said for several years the Archdiocese has been assisting survivors in identifying proper parties to sue. Also the NSW dioceses have had for a number of years comprehensive child safeguarding practices and protocols in place to ensure the safety of children. These are being regularly updated along with detailed training programs.

“We are committed to the prevention of child abuse and the healing of survivors and will continue to work with the government in the area of legislative reform,” Archbishop Fisher said.

ENDS