



concerned Catholics

of the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese

A response to the Royal Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

Concerned Catholics in Canberra want to know where the bishops stand on the Royal Commission's recommendations

25 July 2018

A large group of Catholics in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese has called on Australian bishops to release their response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as a matter of urgency.

Speaking ahead of an extraordinary meeting of Australian bishops next week, Concerned Catholics Chair, Professor John Warhurst said the bishops received a report from the Truth Justice and Healing Council in March this year, but the report remains under wraps.

"We were alerted to this extraordinary meeting via the media and so far, it's difficult to find anything on the ACBC's website to suggest a meeting is taking place," Professor Warhurst said.

"Bishops must be more transparent and up-front about their processes and in their communications with their Catholic community.

"As a movement which has drawn support from 450 Canberra Catholics, we stand with survivors, a number of bishops, Catholic religious orders of men and women nationally, state and federal politicians and with the many individuals who have called on the bishops to release the report.

"The Royal Commission has exposed a crisis in our Church, and many of the recommendations released in December last year go to deeply imbedded cultural and structural issues which must be resolved as a matter of urgency in consultation with lay Catholics.

"Waiting for the outcome of the 2020 Plenary Council is not the answer. We have just had a historic five-year inquiry. It is now over seven months since those recommendations were delivered.

"Canberra's lay Catholics demand action," Professor Warhurst said.

Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn is a group in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese concerned about a number of governance, cultural and structural issues arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We seek an effective voice for lay people in the administration and direction of our church.

MEDIA CONTACT: Mark Metherell 0417603697

Email: concerned.catholics.cangnb@gmail.com Web: www.concernedcatholicscanberra.org
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Twitter](#)