



Our Ref: O HO 0227

## Statement from the Christian Brothers Oceania – William Houston

17 May 2016

The Christian Brothers Oceania Province today released the following statement after the sentencing of a former brother, William Houston, in Melbourne today.

*The charges with which this man has been found guilty and sentenced today are shocking.*

*That any young person placed in our care has been abused as these children were by this man is a matter of great regret and remorse for all Christian Brothers.*

*To those who suffered as a result of his actions, you have our unreserved apology.*

*The Christian Brothers Oceania views these actions as a deplorable betrayal of the trust of innocent children and their families.*

*The protection and safety of children is the highest priority of the Christian Brothers Oceania.*

*We cooperate fully with any and all investigations into these matters and we strongly urge any person holding evidence of criminal conduct to take that to the Police.*

*The Christian Brothers Oceania encourage any person who has suffered abuse at any of our facilities, to contact the Professional Standards Office in Melbourne on (03) 8359 0134.*

### **Ends**

Note: William Houston left the Christian Brothers' Congregation in 2008.

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