



30 March 2016

Statement from the Christian Brothers Oceania Province

ABC Radio Online Story Inaccurate

A story on ABC Online today, which makes claims about the Christian Brothers' handling of compensation to abuse victims, is wrong and should be corrected.

The Christian Brothers have and will continue to nominate a proper legal entity, backed by assets, to enable victims to commence civil proceedings, if that is the course victims and their lawyers are seeking.

The Christian Brothers totally support and comply with the '*Guiding Principles for Responding to Civil Claims of Child Sexual Abuse*', developed by the Christian Brothers Oceania and publically released in April 2015.

The '*Guiding Principles*' draw on the clear commitment of the Christian Brothers to address claims in a 'victim focused' manner and to work collaboratively with those who have suffered abuse.

This approach is resulting in large numbers of matters being settled. We have resolved 205 claims of historical abuse, in 2015 alone, with payments exceeding \$20 million.

With regard to the Best matter, the Christian Brothers have worked collaboratively with Dr Vivian Waller and advised her in writing that the Christian Brothers were prepared to provide an entity with assets for litigation purposes, if that is the path her client wished to take.

The Christian Brothers have demonstrated their deep concern about historic child abuse and have worked with victims and their legal representatives to compensate them for the damage caused.

Note:

Comments are to be attributed to 'a spokesperson for the Christian Brothers Oceania Province'. This statement will be published in full on the Christian Brothers Oceania website.

Media contact: + 61 408 625539

