



Christian Brothers
Oceania Province



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

Joint Statement

19 March 2013

From the Christian Brothers (Oceania Province)

and Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA)

in relation to

the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

We acknowledge and regret that incidents of sexual abuse and assault of innocent and vulnerable children have occurred in institutions conducted by the Christian Brothers.

We apologise sincerely to the victims of this abuse, and to all those whose lives and hopes have been devastated as a result.

We will continue to support the provision of care for victims, and we hope that the Royal Commission will help them to move towards the healing of their hurts. We also seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

We welcome the decision of the Royal Commission to invite those directly or indirectly affected by child sexual abuse to share their experiences and to seek redress. We support the Royal Commission's intentions to ensure the protection of children from abuse in the future, and to see that institutions working for children act with accountability, integrity and due care.

While the Christian Brothers and Edmund Rice Education Australia are now separate entities, we share a common history and tradition and we recognise our responsibility to respond to the concerns of the Commission. We also hope to contribute to the Commission's recommendations for the improvement of policies, practices and systems to protect children in institutions. The Christian Brothers and EREA therefore pledge to collaborate and cooperate with the Commission.

We shall continue to work for best practice in our own child protection policies and systems for the protection of children, and for the development of a culture of care, compassion and accountability.

Concerns about sexual abuse experienced in institutions conducted by the Christian Brothers prior to the first of October, 2007 are handled by the Christian Brothers Oceania Province. Concerns about sexual abuse experienced after this date are handled by Edmund Rice Education Australia.

There are several options for reporting open to victims and others aware of incidents of sexual abuse. As a priority, we urge anyone wishing to report an incident of sexual abuse to refer the matter directly to the police. Alternatively, incidents of sexual abuse may be reported to other statutory authorities, established in each State of the Commonwealth. Contact information for these authorities is provided separately.

The Catholic Church has established Professional Standards Offices in every diocese in Australia. These offices are staffed by women and men who are skilled in giving advice as to how to report incidents of abuse. School Principals and the Executive Officers of the Christian Brothers Professional Standards Office (the latter may be contacted on **(03) 8359 0119**), are available to assist anyone wishing to make a report to take it to the appropriate authorities.



Vince F Duggan cfc
Province Leader
For the Christian Brothers



Paul D Oakley cfc
President
For Edmund Rice Education Australia

National Committee for Professional Standards

The committee's purpose is to ensure pastoral care for victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse by church personnel.

Executive Officer: Phone: (02) 9669 6218

The phone numbers for the State Professional Standards offices are:

New South Wales 1300 369 977

Tasmania 1800 356 613

Northern Territory 0418 736 890

Victoria 1800 816 030

Queensland 1800 337 928

Western Australia 1800 072 390

South Australia 1800 139 020

Christian Brothers Oceania Province Centre
PO Box 596 Virginia BC QLD 4014
131 Queens Road Nudgee QLD 4014
Ph: +61 (0)7 3621 9600 Fax: +61 (0)7 3621 9688

EREA National Office
PO Box 91 (9 The Vaucluse)
Richmond, Victoria, 3121, Australia
P: + 61 3 9426 3200 F: + 61 3 9426 3222

State/Territory	Office	To report instances of child abuse
Australian Capital Territory	Office for Children, Youth and Family Support Ph: 132 281	1300 556 729
New South Wales	Department of Family and Community Services Ph: (02) 9716 2222 Child	132 111 (TTY 1800 212 936)
Northern Territory	NT Department of Children and Families Ph: (08) 8999 3737	(24 hours) 1800 700 250
Queensland	Department of Communities – Child Safety	South East: 1300 679 849 South West: 1300 683 390 Far North QLD: 1300 684 062 North QLD: 1300 706 147 North Coast: 1300 703 921 Brisbane: 1300 682 254 Central QLD: 1300 703 762 After hours (all areas): 1800 177 135
South Australia	Department for Education and Child Development - Families SA Phone: (08) 8124 4185	131 478 (24 hours)
Tasmania	Department of Health and Human Services - Child Protection Services Ph: 1300 135 513	1300 737 639 at any time
Victoria	Department of Human Services – Children, Youth and Families	Metropolitan Eastern: 1300 360 391 Southern: 1300 655 795 North & West: 1300 664 977 Rural Barwon S/West: 1800 075 99 Gippsland: 1800 020 202 Grampians: 1800 000 551 Hume: 1800 650 227 Loddon Mallee: 1800 675 598 All regions after hours 131 278
Western Australia	Department for Child Protection Ph: (08) 9222 2555 TTY: (08) 9325 1232	(08) 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258 After hours: (08) 9223 1111 or 1800 199 008