



Diocese of Port Pirie Chancery

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Media Release Royal Commission on Sexual Abuse in Australian Institutions

The Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie welcomes the news of a Royal Commission to investigate incidents of sexual abuse against children and young people alleged to have occurred in institutions conducted by Churches, sporting and recreational clubs, youth organisations, Government and Non-government institutions.

For several years now the Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie has urged victims to come forward. Victims have been consistently encouraged to report their matter to the police. Victims have also been invited to engage the Church's "Towards Healing" process. Church notice boards carry the Professional Standards office phone number (1800 139 020). The diocese has nothing to conceal and if called upon will cooperate fully and openly with the Commission.

Bishop O'Kelly said he welcomed the Royal Commission to help clear the atmosphere in regard to all accusations.

The Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie places the highest priority on the care, well-being and protection of children and young people, and has vigorous screening and training procedures in place. We pray that this Royal Commission will help strengthen the protection of the young, the abuse of whom is a heinous crime.

Bishop Gregory O'Kelly SJ