



DIocese OF BROKEN BAY

INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES  
TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



## DAVID L. WALKER DD

Bishop of Broken Bay

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Dear People of Broken Bay,

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Broken Bay, I would again like to apologise sincerely to those who have suffered sexual abuse by representatives of Christ's faithful, to the family and friends who have journeyed alongside them in pain and to all who are distressed by these devastating events.

I welcome the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as an opportunity for victims to obtain a just hearing. For an emotional and spiritual healing can only begin to take place when issues can be openly addressed, processes within our institutions scrutinised and the whole community better able to understand child sexual abuse and together find ways forward.

The Diocese of Broken Bay actively supports, and is fully committed to, assisting the work of the Truth Justice & Healing Council and the National Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission may well bring to light incidents that will be distressing and dispiriting for all of us.

This booklet provides contacts within the Diocese and the wider Church and draws together a varied range of services from the Truth Justice & Healing Council and the Royal Commission that may be of assistance to you or someone you know.

I pray that as we move forward together, there can be healing for victims and survivors of sexual abuse, the Church may be transformed, our relationships healed and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Walker".

David L Walker  
Bishop of Broken Bay

In Broken Bay, please contact:  
Jodie Crisafulli, Manager Complaints & Professional Standards  
**9847 0212 | 0405 422 522 | [jodie.crisafulli@dbb.org.au](mailto:jodie.crisafulli@dbb.org.au)**

# The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

On Friday 11 January 2013, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, appointed a six-member Royal Commission to investigate Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Royal Commission will inquire into how institutions with a responsibility for children have managed and responded to allegations and instances of child sexual abuse. It will investigate where systems have failed to protect children, and make recommendations on how to improve laws, policies and practices to prevent and better respond to child sexual abuse in institutions.

The Commissioners can look at any private, public or non-government organisation that is, or was in the past, involved with children, including government agencies, schools, sporting clubs, orphanages, foster care, and religious organisations.

**[childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)**

Phone: **1800 099 340**

## The Truth Justice & Healing Council

Two overarching Catholic Church organisations, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia (which together represent dioceses, archdioceses and religious congregations across Australia) established the Truth, Justice & Healing Council in recognition of the importance of the Royal Commission and the imperative for the Church to address the past openly and honestly, the good with the bad.

The Council will allow the Church to speak with one voice before the Royal Commission representing the numerous organisations that make up the Catholic Church. The Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's response to the Royal Commission with a commitment to cooperation, openness, full disclosure and justice for victims and survivors.

**[tjhcouncil.org.au](http://tjhcouncil.org.au)**

Phone: **6234 0900**

Fax: **6234 0999**

## Reporting Sexual Abuse in the Church

Sexual abuse by members of the Church should be reported to the police. They have the capability to rigorously investigate any claims of sexual abuse.

If requested, the Church will provide assistance to anyone in taking their allegation to the police and will fully cooperate with the police in any investigation.

Contact your local police station  
**OR**  
the Police Assistance Line **131 444**

You can report abuse to the Catholic Church by contacting:

### Towards Healing (NSW & ACT)

Phone: **1300 369 977**

A person coming to the Church is advised that criminal matters must be dealt with by the police. Despite this, and the requirement of Towards Healing that criminal matters will be passed on to the police, some victims and survivors do elect to have the matter dealt with by their Church.

*If you are having difficulty deciding whether to report abuse in the Church,  
the following service may be able to assist you.*

### Ethi-Call

Ethi-Call provides free and confidential ethics counselling. It is a service of the St James Ethics Centre; an independent organisation with no religious or political affiliation.

**ethics.org.au**  
Phone: **1800 672 303**

# CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay

[catholiccaredbb.org.au](http://catholiccaredbb.org.au)

If you are seeking counselling services with a Catholic agency, CatholicCare can provide these, and a wide range of programs and support services for children, young people, individuals and families through their Family Centres in the Diocese.

## Brookvale Family Centre

Unit 9B, 44 Wattle Road, Brookvale.

Phone: **8968 5100** | Fax: **9939 4277**

Email [brookvalefamilycentre@dbb.org.au](mailto:brookvalefamilycentre@dbb.org.au)

## Naremburn Family Centre

40 Merrenburn Avenue, Naremburn

Phone: **8425 8700** | Fax: **9438 4700**

Email [naremburnfamilycentre@dbb.org.au](mailto:naremburnfamilycentre@dbb.org.au)

## Waitara Family Centre

29 Yardley Avenue, Waitara

Phone: **9488 2400**

Email [waitarafamilycentre@dbb.org.au](mailto:waitarafamilycentre@dbb.org.au)

## Warnervale Family Centre

3 Mary MacKillop Drive, Woongarah

Phone: **4356 2600** | Fax: **4356 2601**

Email [centralcoastfamilycentre@dbb.org.au](mailto:centralcoastfamilycentre@dbb.org.au)

## Other Counselling & Support Services

<b>Knowmore</b> <b>knowmore.org.au</b>	An independent service to provide legal information and advice.	<b>1800 605 762</b> <b>info@knowmore.org.au</b>
<b>1800 Respect</b> <b>1800respect.org.au</b>	Counselling service for sexual assault. 24/7	<b>1800 737 732</b>
<b>Adults Surviving Child Abuse</b> <b>asca.org.au</b>	Advances the health and well-being of people affected by childhood trauma.	<b>1300 657 380</b> <b>counsellors@asca.org.au</b>
<b>beyondblue</b> <b>beyondblue.org.au</b>	Mental health support. 24/7	<b>1300 224 636</b>
<b>Bravehearts</b> <b>bravehearts.org.au</b>	Counselling for survivors of sexual abuse.	<b>1800 272 831</b> <b>admin@bravehearts.org.au</b>
<b>Broken Rites</b> <b>brokenrites.org.au</b>	Support for survivors of sexual abuse.	<b>03 9457 4999</b> <b>contact@brokenrites.org.au</b>
<b>Care Leavers Australia Network</b> <b>clan.org.au</b>	Support for people who grew up in Australia's orphanages, children's homes and in foster care.	<b>1800 008 774</b> <b>support@clan.org.au</b>
<b>Child Migrant's Trust</b> <b>childmigrantstrust.com</b>	Assistance for people who were British child migrants.	<b>1800 040 509</b>
<b>Headspace</b> <b>headspace.org.au</b>	Mental health support for young people.	<b>9114 4100</b> <b>headspace.centrawsydney@sydney.edu.au</b>
<b>Lifeline</b> <b>lifeline.org.au</b>	24 hour crisis support.	<b>13 11 14</b> <b>crisis support chat 8pm 7 days</b>

## Other Counselling & Support Services

<p>Men's Line <a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a></p>	<p>24/7 phone and online counselling support for men.</p>	<p><b>1300 789 978</b></p>
<p>Survivors &amp; Mates Support Network <a href="http://samsn.com.au">samsn.com.au</a></p>	<p>Support for men coping with the effects of childhood sexual abuse.</p>	<p><b>0439 838 787</b> <a href="mailto:support@samsn.com.au">support@samsn.com.au</a></p>
<p>Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests <a href="http://snapaustralia.org">snapaustralia.org</a></p>	<p>Support for survivors of sexual abuse by clergy.</p>	<p><b>0422 538 440</b> <a href="mailto:survivorsclergy@gmail.com">survivorsclergy@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>NSW Rape Crisis Centre <a href="http://nswrapecrisis.com.au">nswrapecrisis.com.au</a></p>	<p>24/7 phone and online crisis counselling for anyone who has experienced or who is at risk of sexual assault.</p>	<p><b>1800 424 017</b> <a href="mailto:info@nswrapecrisis.com.au">info@nswrapecrisis.com.au</a></p>
<p>Interrelate Family Centres <a href="http://interrelate.org.au">interrelate.org.au</a></p>	<p>Network of counselling centres across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW.</p>	<p><b>1300 736 966</b></p>
<p>Relationships Australia NSW <a href="http://nsw.relationships.com.au">nsw.relationships.com.au</a></p>	<p>Family and relationship counselling as well as a range of specialist counselling services.</p>	<p><b>1300 364 277</b> and call will divert to closest service location</p>
<p>The Women's Cottage, Hawkesbury <a href="http://womenscottage.org.au">womenscottage.org.au</a></p>	<p>Community based support and resource centre run by women, for women and children.</p>	<p><b>4578 4190</b> <a href="mailto:womcot@pnc.com.au">womcot@pnc.com.au</a></p>
<p>Victims Access Line <a href="http://lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs">lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs</a></p>	<p>For victims of crime in NSW to assist them in accessing services, including counselling and support.</p>	<p><b>1800 633 063</b> <a href="mailto:vs@agd.nsw.gov.au">vs@agd.nsw.gov.au</a></p>



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

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Pennant Hills NSW 2120

PO Box 340 Pennant Hills NSW 1715

Phone: **9847 0000** | Fax: **9847 0001**