

Media Release

Marist Brothers' Province of Australia



Statement from the Marist Brothers' Province of Australia – Br John Patrick O'Brien

5 November 2021

"The Marist Brothers [reiterate our sincere apology](#) made at the time of these verdicts being handed down.

"The Marist Brothers openly acknowledge that children in our institutions have been failed and our apology for what has happened, and the impact of those events, is sincere.

"To those against whom these crimes were committed, on behalf of our Institute I apologise unreservedly for what has happened and acknowledge the often-lifelong impact of such crimes. We are truly sorry that such events ever occurred.

"I also recognise your courage in coming forward and your resilience in enduring your pain. I earnestly hope that the sentence of the Court handed down today brings you some sense of justice having been served.

"The Marist Brothers are powerless to turn back time and undo the damage that has been caused by the actions of some of our own.

"What is in our power is to unreservedly accept the terrible pain caused and to openly accept our responsibility for what happened in the past and to commit to doing all we can to ensure that such events never occur again.

"I restate the commitment of the Marist Brothers to continue our work to bring some healing through redress to those who have been abused.

Civil litigation is one possibility. The National Redress Scheme provides an independent path for redress without the need to engage with the Marist Brothers. "I encourage any person with any complaint to come forward in the manner and timing of their own choosing.

"Justice underpins our society and I again urge any person with any evidence of any criminal conduct – no matter how long ago it may have occurred – to report that to the police so that the wrongs of the past can be addressed", said Brother Peter Carroll FMS, Provincial.

Ends

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Support, Reporting and Healing Information

Information on the services available to anyone who has experienced abuse in any of our facilities can be found on our website at www.maristbrothers.org.au.

We urge any person with evidence of criminal conduct to report that to their local police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Marist Brothers' Province of Australia is a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme which can be contacted on 1800 737 177 or www.nationalredress.gov.au.