

Media Release

Marist Brothers' Province of Australia



Response to ABC Gippsland

4 May 2020

"There are some points I would like to make in writing for your program and which I am most happy for you to share with your listeners.

The Royal Commission has undertaken exhaustive work into the failings of the Marist Brothers in the past and also countless other institutions - religious, non-religious, government and non-government alike.

Our failings reflect those found in a common thread across almost every Australian institution - children were not properly protected and when complaints were raised, they were not acted upon as they should have.

On behalf of the Marist Brothers I have placed on the record - in public and in private - our acknowledgment of these failings, the damage that they have caused and the great hurt, suffering and pain that has resulted for individuals, their families and communities across Australia including Traralgon, Gippsland and the Sale Diocese. These public statements can be found on our website www.maristbrothers.org.au

The apology I have made publicly and privately is unreserved and enduring. That any child could be so harmed and failed when in the care of the Marist Brothers is a matter of profound sorrow yet it is what tragically occurred. We cannot undo the past however we can work to ensure that it does not occur again.

Our mission is supported by mandated and voluntary policies and procedures to protect children. Central to this are the provisions of mandatory reporting legislation which applies to all individuals, religious and lay alike." - Br Peter Carroll FMS, Provincial

Ends

Support, Reporting and Healing Information

The Marist Brothers fully accept that some religious and lay people in our facilities committed abuse against children and for that we are deeply sorry and unreserved in our apology.

We are unable to change the past however we will continue our work to provide healing to those who have suffered abuse in our institutions

MARIST CENTRE, SYDNEY
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Justice for those who have experienced abuse is fundamental to the healing process and we urge any person with evidence of criminal conduct to report that to their local police.

For those who have experienced abuse in any of our facilities, there are a number of ways in which they can access support.

Information on the services provided by the Marist Brothers, including our healing and support officers, can be found on our website at www.maristbrothers.org.au

Our Professional Standards Office can also assist any person wishing to come forward and is contactable on 02 9218 4000.

The Marist Brothers' Province of Australia is also a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme. Applications to the NRS must be made directly by contacting 1800 737 177 or www.nationalredress.gov.au