



Greater Melbourne
Geelong
Gippsland

Strengthening families and communities

Apology to victims of Church sexual abuse

CatholicCare wishes to express our deep sorrow and offer a sincere, unreserved and absolute apology to all victims who have suffered the pain and humiliation of sexual abuse within the Church.

CatholicCare joins with Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, and Bishop of Sale, Pat O'Regan, in acknowledging that the crimes of the perpetrators have done great harm. We recognise that in the past the Church has not always dealt appropriately with offenders or victims. We know that abuses of the past and the ramifications of how they were dealt with by Church authorities have undermined confidence in the Church and agencies of the Church, betrayed the Gospel of Jesus and destroyed some people's faith in God.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has painted a disturbing picture of historical sexual abuse that is shamefully a part of a shared Church legacy. One case of abuse is one too many, one case of abuse leaves a life-long impact on victims, their family, their friends, their community – our community.

CatholicCare pledges a clear and firm commitment now, and into the future, that the lessons learned from the past will not be forgotten and that the protection of children and young people will remain our priority.

John Sheldon
Chairman

June 2017

Fr Joe Caddy, EV
Chief Executive Officer