

Media Release from the
Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



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Media Release | 9 March, 2016

New Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding in the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, the Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, today announced the establishment of a new Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) within the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop said, "I have instigated and aim to fully implement a governance structure that brings our survivors of sex abuse from the margins into the centre of our pastoral response."

The Archbishop is responding to the recent weeks' focus on the Catholic Church as part of the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse, by announcing this new Institute.

Archbishop Prowse said, "This is a most challenging time for us all, especially over recent weeks. The Royal Commission has uncovered afresh the pain and deep wounds of survivors and their families and friends."

"The real heroes arising from this darkness are the survivors themselves," he said.

"Some survivors have spoken most positively of Church officials once the abuse was reported." However, Archbishop Prowse said, "Too many, regrettably, have spoken of being confronted by a brutal and defensive Church governance structure that refused to take responsibility."

"The aim is to support survivors with the reassurance that all our communities are safe, our children and vulnerable people are truly cared for, and the spiritual dimension of all we do is not compromised by unethical and criminal behaviour," the Archbishop said today.

Ms Jane Cronan will manage the Institute alongside the director, Mr Matt Casey. If anyone wishes to discuss matters pertaining to professional standards in the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, staff at the new **Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding** would be happy to assist you.

Media Enquiries

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