



STATEMENT

Re: Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

As we are confronted with the alarming details contained in the Final Report of the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse, there is profound sadness that we must own the truth of New Norcia's part in the evil of sexual abuse. These acts of abuse which were committed in the period between the 1950s and the 1970s by some of our predecessors are deeply disturbing and are a source of indescribable shame for our present community.

Although it will take time to absorb this comprehensive Final Report, we do receive it with a sense of hope. Along with the opportunity to again acknowledge the devastating effects this abuse has had on the lives of so many innocent victims, the Final Report offers clear directives towards achieving some degree of justice and reparation for survivors and a clear pathway towards the future protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Further to our statement at the time of the findings relating to the Catholic Church earlier in the year, we accept this Final Report with a spirit of humility and renew our pledge to do everything we possibly can within our means to build on our previous responses to victims, sincerely hoping that they may someday experience some degree of healing. We wish to assure the wider community that we have given ourselves fully to the safeguarding initiatives already in place and will continue to do so as these policies and procedures are further developed.

We take this opportunity to again acknowledge our grave failures and to reiterate our sincere apology to those who have been abused by past members of our community.

Along with the wider Church we work towards and pray for a Church and a world in which truth, justice, healing and peace may prevail.

Abbot

New Norcia Benedictine Community

December 2017