



Statement

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Premier
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Monday 12 November 2012

National Royal Commission

The Victorian Coalition Government welcomes the Prime Minister's announcement that a national Royal Commission will be established into instances and allegations of child sexual abuse.

In April this year, the Victorian Coalition Government established the first Australian inquiry into matters relating to the handling of alleged criminal abuse of children by religious and other non-government organisations.

The inquiry has already demonstrated its value. It is also clear that the inquiry has provided the opportunity for a national focus on these important issues.

It is clear that there have been a substantial number of established complaints of sexual abuse of children by those who have taken advantage of positions of authority.

This abuse is abhorrent and it has had traumatic consequences for victims and their families.

It is important that we do whatever we can to prevent it from happening and bring those who are perpetrators of child abuse to justice.

The Prime Minister has indicated the Commonwealth will commence a consultative process over the coming weeks as the terms of reference and other matters for the establishment of the national Royal Commission are considered.

The Victorian Coalition Government will work co-operatively with the Commonwealth Government as the Royal Commission is established.

The Victorian Parliamentary inquiry has already undertaken significant work since its establishment including receiving a large number of written submissions, testimony provided at hearings and a forward program of further hearings.

The Victorian Coalition Government will work with the parliamentary committee, stakeholders and the Commonwealth to appropriately bring together the work of these two inquiries.

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