

12 December 2017

Dear Lasallians,

The Royal Commission will soon hand down its final report and the recommendations it has formed to help protect children and young people in Australia now and into the future.

The De La Salle Brothers welcome this report.

Over the past 5 years the Royal Commission has shone a necessary light on the sad history of child sexual abuse in institutions across Australia, including our own.

The picture of abuse painted across organisations, religious and secular, has been both confronting and shocking.

It is a sad but inescapable fact that the De La Salle Brothers are amongst those who have failed children in the past.

It is something that we readily acknowledge and for which we are deeply sorry.

That any child in our care suffered abuse is a shocking and profound breach of their trust and that of their loved ones.

We are unreserved in our apology.

It is also an inescapable fact that the revelations of past abuse and the scale of offending has had an enormous impact on all those who have joined with us in our Lasallian mission.

I know many of you feel saddened and let down by these events and I share the sense of betrayal you feel towards those Brothers and lay people who have offended against children.

These events have caused much suffering and I extend to you my personal apology for the impact it has had on you.

The Royal Commission may now have concluded however our work in bringing healing to lives affected by abuse continues and we are committed to working with victims to try and repair some of the damage caused.

It may not always be possible to make good again what has been broken however our resolve to address past failures is strong.

“for nothing is impossible to God.” (Luke 1: 37)

Whilst we cannot undo the past we can work with care and compassion to help restore lives and ensure that the values that unite us in our Lasallian mission help shape a new future.

I invite you once again to visit www.delasalle.org.au where the District's policies for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults are posted.

Yours sincerely,

Br David Hawke FSC
Visitor (Provincial)

“for nothing is impossible to God.” (Luke 1: 37)