



15th December 2017

EREA acknowledges and accepts Royal Commission's Final Report

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) has today welcomed the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, with great sadness for the ordeals of survivors and victims, gratitude for their courage, and shame for the failures of institutions established to care for children.

The Royal Commission addressed allegations of child abuse by a range of institutions, government agencies and church organisations from all denominations that are responsible for the care of young people.

EREA Executive Director Dr Wayne Tinsey sincerely thanks all those involved in the Royal Commission for their service, diligence and care.

EREA will be reviewing the Final Report in the coming days and carefully considering any recommendations which have relevance for EREA and its schools.

"What is clear from the Commission's Report is that all schools must adhere to the highest standards of child protection," he said.

Dr Tinsey said abuse of young people is abhorrent and can never be excused or accepted in society.

"We cannot tolerate the breach of trust of impressionable young people and the devastating and long-lasting consequences on them and their families," he said.

Dr Tinsey said, "EREA has apologised to survivors of abuse and their families for the hurt and suffering that abuse, which had occurred in the context of its schools, has caused them throughout their lives. It is our hope that our apology, given publicly in June 2017, will go some way to addressing and healing this long-standing omission and hurt, and will be a step towards re-establishing trust."

Dr Tinsey said EREA would continue to support survivors of abuse in its schools in any way it could.

"EREA is committed to embedding an organisational culture of child safety, continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures, and supporting schools in this work," he said.

As a priority, EREA urges anyone wishing to report an incident of sexual abuse to refer the matter directly to the police. School Principals are also available to assist anyone wishing to make a report to take it to the appropriate authorities.