CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

media
statement

Date: 15 October 2012

STATEMENT REGARDING PROFESSOR PATRICK PARKINSON

*In **Facing the Truth**, we have provided a summary of Professor Parkinson's work with the Catholic Church. We have referred to his 2009 review of Towards Healing and the concerns he subsequently raised about the Salesians.*

In May 2009 he prepared a document setting out his concerns about how the Salesians dealt with those against whom allegations of abuse were made. In that document he proposed a possible public inquiry. He also proposed that the Salesians be given the opportunity to comment.

***Facing the Truth** described these events as Professor Parkinson having "commenced his investigation". Professor Parkinson has objected to our use of the word 'investigation' to describe this early work.*

The NCPS (Towards Healing National Committee for Professional Standards) provided the Salesians with the May 2009 document in August 2009 which was the beginning of the Salesians' involvement in the process. In August 2010 Professor Parkinson provided his final report on the Salesians to the NCPS. He believed that the report should have been publicly released at that point. The Salesians contested his findings. The NCPS sought to resolve these issues but was unsuccessful. It did not release his report and he is critical of that.

In August 2011 Professor Parkinson is reported in the media as having written to the Victorian Attorney General calling for a public inquiry into these matters and in July 2012 he provided his submission and August 2010 report to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

*Professor Parkinson has advised the NCPS that he considers our summary of these events in **Facing the Truth** to be inaccurate.*

*In **Facing the Truth** we sought to objectively summarise a complex issue so that it is before the Parliamentary Inquiry. We had no intention of criticising Professor Parkinson. We apologise for any implicit criticism of him.*

As the matters raised by Professor Parkinson are within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, we will answer any further questions about them from the Inquiry.

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