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## BISHOP WELCOMES ROYAL COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, Robert McGuckin, has today welcomed the release of the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to child sexual abuse.

The report is the culmination of almost five years of intense examination of the way in which many different institutions, including the Catholic Church, have historically failed children.

Bishop McGuckin said one of the most important elements of this work has been the opportunity for those who were abused to be heard and action to be taken.

“As a Church, we once again acknowledge that there are shameful parts of our history that have resulted in unspeakable suffering.

“We are deeply sorry and give an assurance of a continued commitment to ensuring justice for those affected.”

The Royal Commission’s final report includes recommendations and formal findings and Bishop McGuckin hopes that all leaders within government and institutions will work together to implement the recommendations.

“I thank the Commissioners for their thorough investigations and their dedication in proposing ways to prevent such failings in the future.”

“Locally, whilst we will take time to understand the recommendations and further plan to provide the very best protection for children and vulnerable adults in our care, we have already made significant progress and improvements.”

“We all have a responsibility to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and feel safe.”

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