



## STATEMENT TO THE AGE NEWSPAPER

12 July 2019

The Christian Brothers Oceania Province provided the following statement to the Age newspaper. All quotes are to be attributed to 'The Christian Brothers Oceania Province'.

*"For more than three decades the Christian Brothers have been meeting our obligations to those who have experienced abuse in any of our facilities and this work is continuing, both through the National Redress Scheme as well as addressing claims brought to us through the civil legal arena.*

*"The outcome of this work is a matter of public record including the Royal Commission, which publicly stated in February 2017 that between 1 January 1980 and 28 February 2015 the Christian Brothers had paid \$48.5 million to those who had experienced abuse.*

*"Payments run into the tens of millions of dollars annually and this represents the practical effect of the Congregation's commitment to acknowledge and address the harm suffered as a result of child sexual abuse.*

*"Responding to claims involves significant sums expended on compensation and other support services such as counselling and psychological services.*

*"Whilst these costs are significant any financial consideration pales in comparison to the moral imperative of making sure that we acknowledge and respond to those who have suffered so greatly as a result of the abuse that they have endured.*

*"Our Financial Reports – including those self-reported to the ACNC and which have been publicly available on their website for some time – are independently and rigorously audited to ensure that we can demonstrate we are solvent in the full context of both current and non-current liabilities.*

*"Our past and current financial reports demonstrate this.*

*"Further, the Trustees of the Christian Brothers are a corporate entity, which is also required to satisfy the corporate regulator on an ongoing basis that we are solvent and able to fulfill our fiduciary obligations.*

*"The Trustees will continue to meet our current and projected liabilities – including those related to the decade long operation of the National Redress Scheme as well as those flowing from civil claims – and we will do this through the responsible management of our finances as we have done so over 30 years.*