

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 September 2016

Registrations for private sessions with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse closing soon

KEY POINTS

- The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is closing registrations for private sessions on 30 September 2016.
- Private sessions enable survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional settings, such as churches and schools, to share their story with a Commissioner in a private setting.
- Any adult survivor of child sexual abuse in institutional settings who would like to share their story with the Royal Commission can contact Victim Support Service for free information and support. Call the VSS Helpdesk on 1800 VICTIM (1800 842846) or visit www.victimsa.org.

Victim Support Service (VSS) provides free information and support to adult survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional settings, including people who would like to share their story with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

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Private sessions enable survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional settings, such as churches and schools, to share their story with a Commissioner in a private setting.

VSS Chief Executive Julian Roffe said it is important that survivors know they don't have to go through the process of giving evidence alone.

"VSS is here for adult survivors of child sexual abuse every step of the way," Mr Roffe said.

"The VSS Royal Commission Support Service is available in every major regional community in South Australia."

"We know that, on average, it takes 22 years for survivors to disclose so making the decision to speak to the Royal Commission can be difficult. But we also know that having a voice can make a positive difference to a survivor."

Survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional settings who would like to share their story in person must register for a private session with a Commissioner by 30 September 2016.

To register for a private session, contact the Royal Commission directly on 1800 099 340 or email contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au.

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ENDS

VSS MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Vic Laughton

0419 668 437 or 1800 VICTIM (1800 842846)

media@victimsa.org



ABOUT VSS

Victim Support Service (VSS) is a statewide, not-for-profit organisation that provides practical and therapeutic support to victims and witnesses of crime in South Australia. Our services include:

- information and advocacy
- counselling
- practical assistance
- support for victims of family/domestic abuse.

For more information go to www.victimsa.org.