



*In pursuit of justice*

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Dr Vivian Waller, Managing Partner of Waller Legal, a law firm dedicated to assisting those who have experienced sexual abuse, may be quoted as follows.**

*Waller Legal was pleased to receive the news on Friday, 18 November 2016, that the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne planned to increase the compensation cap under the Melbourne Response process from \$75,000.00 to \$150,000.00.*

*This development comes after a protracted and anxious wait by survivors since Archbishop Denis Hart announced the independent review to be conducted by Donnell Ryan in April 2014.*

*Whilst Waller Legal maintain the view that the imposition of a cap on redress is unfairly restrictive, the increase signals a positive step forward to recognising and compensating survivors of child sexual abuse in a way that more closely reflects the magnitude of the harm that they have suffered.*

*Waller Legal are further pleased by the decision to revisit previously settled matters both prior and post the announcement of the review in April 2014.*

*Waller Legal presently act on behalf of more than 50 survivors who have previously resolved complaints made through Melbourne Response. This announcement provides them with greater certainty about their rights for further redress payments.*

*We understand that the Archbishop has declined to publicly release the report into Melbourne Response. We are disappointed by this decision and encourage the Archbishop to reconsider his position.*

*Waller Legal encourages those who intend to engage in the Melbourne Response process, to first seek out independent and experienced legal advice about their legal rights. In some cases, it may be open for a survivor to progress a common law claim outside of the Archdioceses' internal process.*

*Waller Legal look forward to further announcements from the Archdiocese about other reforms to the Melbourne Response process.*

Dr Vivian Waller

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