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30th October 1996

**MEDIA AFFAIRS**

**POLICE SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
INITIATIVES TO COMBAT SEXUAL ABUSE**

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Victoria Police have welcomed today's announcement of a series of initiatives in response to sexual abuse by priests, religious and lay people under the control of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The announcement is seen as a positive step in tackling this very sensitive community issue.

Police have also welcomed the appointment of Peter O'Callaghan QC to the position of Independent Commissioner.

They say they are pleased to see the appointment of the Commissioner will not in any way conflict with police investigations or actions in respect to sexual abuse.

Police are hopeful that the appointment of the Commissioner will assist identify those engaging in sexual abuse, and result in them being dealt with by the law.

Nicole Hughes  
Media Officer  
Media Affairs

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