

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SUBMIT RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT

- **Response to Government and Former Residents of Residential Institutions**
- **Investment in Education and Welfare for Children**
- **Full Disclosure of Resources**

On Monday, 23 November 2009, the Christian Brothers outlined details of an incremental €161 million package of measures as reparation for abuses of the past. This follows publication of the Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse last May.

The contribution comprises a donation of €30 million to a Government Trust plus an additional €4 million to counseling services. It will also involve the transfer of school playing fields (valued at €127 million) into the joint ownership of Government and the Edmund Rice Schools Trust [ERST]. This is in addition to prior contributions of €30 million to redress and welfare, bringing total contributions since 1996 to over €190 million.

In addition, given the vital role of ERST as educator to some 37,000 young people in 96 schools around the country, the Brothers have committed to providing an additional €8m funding to ERST over the five years to 2015. This follows the transfer of schools and associated properties by the Christian Brothers to ERST (an independent lay trust) in 2008. The transfer value, inclusive of funding and establishment costs, was €435m. This was part of an ongoing commitment to support the education and welfare of present and future generations of children in Ireland.

Taken together, these measures equate to resource transfers of almost €635 million since 1996. The Congregation has also submitted to Government a comprehensive report of its resources, commitments and liabilities to a template agreed with the Government appointed Panel. This report, together with our formal response to Government has been published on this dedicated website - www.christianbrothers.eu.

Christian Brothers comment:

“The range of incremental measures outlined in our response to Government follow the Christian Brothers’ acceptance, shame and sorrow at the findings of the Ryan Report. We understand and regret that nothing we say or do can turn back the clock for those affected by abuse. Our fervent hope is that the initiatives now proposed will assist in the provision of support services to former residents of the

institutions as well as the facilities, resources and scope to protect, cherish and educate present and future generations of children.

“In the period since the publication of the Ryan Report, we have met with former residents and some of their representative groups. We have also listened to the people of Ireland and to Government in formulating a conscientious response to the issues arising from the Ryan Report.

“As Christian Brothers we will continue to reflect on many of the deeper issues arising from the Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse. The decisions we have taken to recognize our moral obligation to survivors of abuse and to the people of Ireland will be one sign of our willingness to collaborate fully in creating a new reality for the care of children in Ireland. We will continue to examine how best religious life can contribute to the needs of a changed and changing society in the twenty first century.”