

# Archbishop Wilson says sorry

*Continued from page 1.*

the importance of child safety procedures and the necessity for people everywhere not only to comply with the law but also to be really careful with child protection procedures.

"The Catholic Church is re-examining what happened in the past to find out what the facts were and is looking at its present operations to ensure that all children who are confided into its care are kept as safe as possible.

"If there are any enquiries by either State or Federal Governments into these issues, we will cooperate fully with them."

Archbishop Wilson said that one

of his first messages as the new head of the Catholic Church in Adelaide was that the archdiocese will continue to be unfaltering in embracing the principles put forward in the church's national response to dealing with sexual abuse allegations contained in the *Towards Healing* program.

Archbishop Philip Wilson gained a reputation as a "healing bishop" when he was made Bishop of Wollongong in 1996. When he took over at Wollongong, one priest had been jailed for child sex offences and another, who had also been accused, committed suicide.

"In my first six months at Wollongong there were 42

notifications of child sexual abuse involving priests, teachers and others," said Archbishop Wilson.

He set out to ensure the Wollongong diocese embraced the principles put forward in *Towards Healing*.

He also worked closely with Centacare, set up a family helpline offering assistance and counselling to victims and brought in an international expert to establish training programs in child safety in the diocese.

Programs were also organised for clergy and teachers on fulfilling the requirements of *Towards Healing*.

*Sending a clear signal - see page 12.*

[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au)

*Southern Cross  
31/3/02  
Page 3*