

QUILT OF HOPE HONOURS VICTIMS

Stitch by stitch, a group of volunteers from throughout the Ballarat Catholic Diocese has sewn together a Quilt of Hope for those impacted by church-related sexual abuse.

With the first hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse finished in the city, a group of Catholic parishioners continues to reach out to the survivors and their families.

Ballarat quilt-maker Beryl Andersen (pictured right with the quilt) started work on the quilt in May 2013 and the Moving Towards Justice group completed the piece about a year later.

The quilt consists of eighty individual pieces of calico, each detailing a harrowing personal story. Some pieces were hand-sewn by survivors or their family members, while other sections were embroidered by Mrs Andersen after stories were shared with her.

Mrs Andersen said she was moved by the reactions people had after seeing the red and cream quilt on display as it toured towns in the Ballarat Diocese in recent weeks.

The quilt was on display for the public to view at the Mercy Centre on Victoria Street during the Royal Commission and will be put on permanent display at the Museum of Democracy at Eureka later this year.



Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Melissa Cunningham and photo by Justin Whitelock