

**THE OFFICE OF
THE PREFECT OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE ECONOMY**

2 March 2016

**STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF
CARDINAL GEORGE PELL IN ROME**

Prior to the commencement of his video evidence this week, Cardinal Pell said that he would be happy to meet privately with survivors from the Ballarat and Melbourne case studies in Rome for the Royal Commission hearing if this would be of help to them.

A number of requests for meetings have been received and those requesting meetings have been advised that the Cardinal can meet survivors on Thursday morning or afternoon after he has completed giving evidence. The Cardinal has suggested the meetings might be held at the Hotel Quirinale outside the Vatican where the Royal Commission hearings are being held.

Cardinal Pell hopes that these meetings might be helpful and contribute to healing, and he is happy to meet survivors either individually or in smaller groups, as he has done many times in the past. The Cardinal would like to be able to listen to survivors and private meetings offer a good opportunity for this, rather than larger meetings where not everyone may be able to tell their story and emotions can run high.

Survivors are welcome to bring a person to support them at the meetings, but because of the private and pastoral nature of these meetings it would not be appropriate for media or legal representatives to attend.

Cardinal Pell has also advised survivors that he would be happy to assist with requests to meet Pope Francis, but has to rely on the officials responsible for considering these requests. Yesterday Cardinal Pell in response to a request from survivors, arranged for a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors to meet with survivors on Thursday morning.

Survivors who have requested meetings will be contacted again later today (Wednesday) to confirm their interest in meeting with Cardinal Pell and to arrange times for the meetings.

ENDS

Katrina Lee | Director Catholic Communications

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Level 5, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

tel: +61 2 9390 5312 | **fax:** +61 2 9390 5306

mobile: 0403 950 652

email: katrina.lee@sydneycatholic.org