

3 June 2015

## **Cardinal George Pell**

On Monday Archbishop Denis Hart issued a statement about Cardinal George Pell, which he subsequently spoke to in interviews. We endorse those comments.

We know Cardinal Pell well from working with him over many years in different capacities. He is a man of integrity who is committed to the truth and to helping others, particularly those who have been hurt or who are struggling. His style can be robust and direct; he does not wear his heart on his sleeve. But underneath he has a big heart for people.

Cardinal Pell was one of the first bishops in the world to put in place a comprehensive Church response to investigate allegations of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy and to provide survivors with redress and counselling. He has responded to criticisms that have been made of his handling of these matters over the years, acknowledged mistakes frankly, and apologised for them.

We appreciate the Cardinal's strong and unfailing support for the important work of the Royal Commission and his constant readiness to assist the Royal Commission whenever he is asked to do so.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane  
Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth  
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney  
Archbishop Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Hobart  
Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn  
Bishop Peter Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay  
Bishop Terence Brady, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney