



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

media release

Date: 18 February 2016

I am appalled at the manner in which Cardinal George Pell has been denigrated publicly this week.

Everyone has a right to a fair hearing. It must be remembered that Cardinal Pell offered to appear at this hearing having already appeared before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse twice previously.

He also appeared before the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

It must be remembered that the Royal Commission controls this process, that it accepted that the Cardinal could give his evidence in Rome due to his health concerns and that the community should allow without interference the Commission to determine how the evidence is going to be taken consistent with its normal process.

At the time that the Royal Commission was announced, the Church committed itself to full cooperation. I am conscious of the opportunity that the Royal Commission provides for victims to tell their stories and for the Church to humbly acknowledge its failings and support the victims in their healing.

I can assure the community that our support for the work of the Royal Commission will not waver.

Media Enquiries: Shane Healy: 0417928588 or shane.healy@cam.org.au