

# Royal Commission Case Study 44

## John Joseph Farrell TJHC update



Thursday September 22, 2016 – Day 8

Day 8 of the Royal Commission's hearing (Case Study 44) into the response of Catholic Church authorities to allegations of child sexual abuse by John Joseph Farrell continued in Sydney today with Monsignor John Usher giving his second day of evidence.

Monsignor Usher continued to be questioned about meetings he attended with Farrell and Fathers Lucas and Peters in 1992 and both his recollection of those meetings and contemporaneous reports of the meetings.

Monsignor Usher told the Commission he maintained his understanding of what occurred at the 1992 meetings with Farrell because that was what he believed. Asked if changing his view would have embarrassed Cardinal Pell, who in 2012 had spoken to 4 Corners about the meetings, Monsignor Usher said this was not a consideration.

Farrell was imprisoned in May 2016 for a minimum of 18 years after committing 62 child sex offences in the 1980s.

Monsignor Usher also told the Commission that he gave speeches in 1992 in which he said Church leaders at the time were not moving quickly enough to confront child sexual abuse. He said that there would have been parts of the church that did not embrace his approach to dealing with the issue.

He said that while there was still a lot more work that needs to be done and that it varies from place to place the church is shaping up much better today.

Asked by Commission Chair, Peter McClellan, about what still needs to change, he said the Church needed to give more attention to the people who have been abused rather than the institution in which the abuse took place.

The hearing was adjourned just before lunch to enable the Commission to make further inquiries.

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