



**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES
TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR EVIDENCE FROM CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

CASE STUDY 28 AND 35

OPENING ADDRESS BY SENIOR COUNSEL ASSISTING

1. Cardinal Pell was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Ballarat in 1966. For part of the time he was a priest in Ballarat, he was also one of the consultors to Bishop Mulkearns. In that role he had responsibilities together with the other consultors to give advice to the Bishop on various matters, including the appointments of priests to particular parishes. Cardinal Pell was a consultor at a time when some of the priests who have offended against children were serving in the Diocese.
2. In 1987, Cardinal Pell was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Archbishop Little was the Archbishop of Melbourne during this time. In 1996, Cardinal Pell became Archbishop of Melbourne.
3. The evidence presently before the Commission indicates that Cardinal Pell had responsibilities as an Auxiliary Bishop for areas of the Archdiocese where at least one offending priest was located. As an Auxiliary Bishop, he was a member of the Archbishop's Personnel Advisory Board, and a member of the Curia. Both bodies assisted the Archbishop on matters including the placement of priests.

4. Cardinal Pell is currently the Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy for the Holy See. He resides outside of Australia and beyond the Royal Commission's jurisdiction. The Royal Commission does not have the power to compel Cardinal Pell to appear before it.
5. Cardinal Pell has agreed to give evidence.
6. The Royal Commission decided that although it was preferable for the Cardinal to give evidence in Australia, it was satisfied that he could give evidence by video link from Rome having regard to medical advice.
7. Sitting times will differ from the Royal Commission's usual sitting times. At Cardinal Pell's request and, taking into account the time difference with Rome, hearings will commence at 08:00am Sydney time.
8. Allegations have been made against Cardinal Pell by four witnesses in earlier hearings in Ballarat and Melbourne. Each of those witnesses is represented. Accordingly, I will leave those representatives to question Cardinal Pell about those allegations.
9. Confirm that I appear with Mr Stewart of senior counsel, Mr Free and assisted by
 - a. Ms Stacey Hahn
 - b. Ms Meredith Hagger
 - c. Ms Louise Dargan

Gail Furness SC
Angus Stewart SC
Stephen Free

29 February 2016