



22 February 2016

STATEMENT

JUSTICE PETER MCCLELLAN, CHAIR, ROYAL COMMISSION

The Royal Commission has received requests from some survivors, that they be able to be present in the room where Cardinal Pell will give evidence in Rome next week. The Commission considers that to be a reasonable request.

It's important to state, though, that the Royal Commission will be sitting in Sydney, not in Rome, and will be receiving the Cardinal's evidence in Sydney, transmitted from Rome.

With the assistance of the Australian Embassy in Rome, we have located a room in a hotel in Central Rome which, I am advised, has the technical facilities to ensure an effective signal to Australia. However, those facilities have not been tested.

I understand that testing of the facility is expected to occur late today, Australian time, and when that has taken place, and I expect this will occur tomorrow morning, a further announcement will be made as to the venue. If it happens, and I am advised this is unlikely, that the hotel which has presently been identified is not adequate, an alternative venue will be found in Rome and appropriate arrangements will be made.

ENDS