



19 July 2012

Monsignor John Usher
Chancellor
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Monsignor Usher,

As you know, the Bishops of Parramatta and Armidale have announced an inquiry into certain matters relating to John Farrell to be led by the Hon Mr Antony Whitlam QC.

I have welcomed this inquiry as an important step in resolving the present controversy regarding ex-priest John Farrell and have committed the Archdiocese of Sydney and all of its Bishops, Priests and relevant personnel to providing full co-operation to Mr Whitlam in his inquiry.

Given this, I have decided to write to those under my authority as Archbishop of Sydney who may be a witness to this inquiry to set out my expectations about what full co-operation means.

As a potential witness to Mr Whitlam's inquiry, I ask that you provide him with your full co-operation and assistance in his inquiry. Please let me know if there is any assistance you would like the Archdiocese to provide to you in relation to the inquiry.

It is essential that Mr Whitlam's inquiry maintains its independence both in fact and in perception. It is the usual practice where inquiries such as this have been established to observe and maintain the certain boundaries, until the conclusion of the inquiry. I expect that these boundaries will also be observed by potential witnesses under my authority for Mr Whitlam's inquiry as well. Specifically:

- a. It is not appropriate for potential witnesses to Mr Whitlam's inquiry to be involved with the inquiry, other than as a witness. Accordingly, please do not contact Mr Whitlam, Bishops Fisher and Kennedy or any of their advisers, in relation to any matters relating to John Farrell or the inquiry,



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other than for the purposes of responding to direct requests for assistance to the inquiry.

- b. It is not appropriate for potential witnesses to make any comments or statements about the inquiry, or any of the matters relating to John Farrell, in any public forum. For this reason, any requests for comment or interview on any matter relating to the inquiry should be politely refused, until the conclusion of Mr Whitlam's inquiry.
- c. Additionally, it is not appropriate for potential witnesses to discuss the matters relating to John Farrell or Mr Whitlam's inquiry with other potential witnesses.

You should treat these requests as a formal direction from me as your Bishop and I would be grateful for your written acknowledgement of this direction confirming your acceptance.

Thank you in anticipation of your assistance with Mr Whitlam's inquiry and your compliance with the requests contained in this letter.

Yours in the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Leonard Pell'.

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY