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Australia

29 April 2014

Ms Janette Dines
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse
GPO Box 5283
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

Dear Ms Dines

After Cardinal Pell concluded his evidence before the Royal Commission in Case Study No. 8 on 26 March he met at their request with Mr Anthony and Mrs Chrissie Foster.

Mr and Mrs Foster asked Cardinal Pell if he could ask me to meet with them. After this request was conveyed to me, I agreed to meet with Mr and Mrs Foster which meeting took place on 4 April 2014.

At our meeting, Mr and Mrs Foster referred to the evidence given by Cardinal Pell before you on 26 March in which Cardinal Pell indicated that he had "no problem" with revisiting the compensation cap which applies in the Melbourne Response and the amounts paid previously.

I indicated to Mr and Mrs Foster when we met that the Archdiocese would undertake a consultation process as part of the revisiting compensation arrangements under the Melbourne Response. I enclose a media release issued following that meeting.

My attention has now been drawn to the release by the Royal Commission on 23 April 2014 of Issues Paper 6 – Redress Schemes which seeks submissions from interested individuals and government and non-government organisations by 2 June 2014.

Having regard to the release of Issues Paper 6 and the consultation process being undertaken by the Royal Commission in relation to Redress Schemes, I am concerned that any consultation which the Archdiocese undertakes could be perceived as conflicting with or impacting on the work of the Royal Commission.

I bring these matters to your attention and seek your direction as to whether the Archdiocese should defer any consultation process until the Royal Commission has had an opportunity to receive and consider all submissions made to it in response to Issues Paper No. 6 and issue its report.

It had been envisaged that further details of the Archdiocese's process would be released at the end of this month, and I therefore await your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE