

28 May 2014



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

Justice Peter McClellan AM  
CHAIR

Most Rev Denis J Hart DD  
Archbishop of Melbourne  
James Goold House  
PO Box 146  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Dear Archbishop,

Thank you for your letter to the Royal Commission dated 29 April 2014 concerning your discussions with Mr and Mrs Foster and your announcement that you would revisit compensation arrangements under the *Melbourne Response*. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern to avoid any perception of conflict with the work of the Royal Commission. I can assure you, however, that the Royal Commission does not seek to delay any institution's reconsideration of previous compensation or other redress arrangements it has made, or any consultation processes an institution wishes to undertake as part of that process.

The Commissioners appreciate the importance of the issues of redress and civil litigation, both for those who have suffered institutional child sexual abuse and for institutions. We intend to focus on redress and civil litigation with a view to making final findings and recommendations on these topics as soon as reasonably practicable.

In the meantime, we would welcome any submissions you wish to make in response to the relevant issues papers or through the other consultation processes we will adopt for these issues over the coming months. We would also be pleased to receive information from you in due course as to the outcome of your review of compensation arrangements under the *Melbourne Response* and any consultation process you pursue.

Yours sincerely,

Justice Peter McClellan AM