

Response to Sydney Morning Herald

17 May 2010

Cardinal Pell met with John Ellis and his wife in 2009, and apologised for the way the Archdiocese responded to his complaint. The Archdiocese continues to meet with Mr Ellis and to provide him with financial and pastoral support.

It is very difficult for victims to report allegations of sexual abuse, and clearly some who take this course find it traumatic. Towards Healing is designed first and foremost to bring justice and healing to those who have been abused. Victims are always encouraged to go to the police, and Towards Healing requires that all allegations of criminal conduct be reported to the police. Towards Healing also provides an appeal process for those who are not satisfied. No system is perfect, and a second national review to improve Towards Healing was completed in January this year.

Financial support is provided to victims of abuse once the facts of the case are established. There is no cap on financial support, and the level of support provided varies according to a number of factors, including the specific needs of each victim. The costs of medical treatment and counseling are often met in addition to any other payments.