

*Duggan Felli*

**COPY**

6 August 2009

Mr John Ellis

SA

2119

Dear John

**Re: The matters concerning ongoing discussion with the Archdiocese of Sydney.**

Cardinal Pell is very pleased that our ongoing discussions are taking place following your meeting with him earlier this year.

Following your meeting with Cardinal Pell you wrote to him about a number of matters. He has asked me to continue to discuss these matters with you. Nevertheless, the Cardinal has asked me to pass onto you the following comments.

In the first instance the Cardinal wishes to acknowledge his appreciation of the trauma and emotional strain you have undergone during the seven years leading up to the Court proceedings and ultimate meeting with him. He understands that it has taken much courage and faith on your part to continue to dialogue with the Archdiocese. The Cardinal is grateful for your comment that you are doing this as an "ally" rather than an "accuser" of the Archdiocese.

Secondly, the Cardinal wishes to reiterate his frank acknowledgement of the mistakes that were made in the past. He assures you, in the strongest possible terms, that he is committed to doing all in his power to ensure that certain aspects of the manner you were responded to (or not responded to) by the Archdiocese are not repeated. The Cardinal wishes to thank you for your statement that his personal response to you was an "immeasurable

comfort". He is committed to redress any harm caused to victims of abuse by decisions made in the past.

Thirdly, Cardinal Pell wants you to know that although he believed that your claim against the Archdiocese was for many millions of dollars, he now knows that the truth of the matter was as stated in your letter of 23 February 2009 (viz. an "offer of compromise" submitted to the Archdiocese in December 2004 of only \$750,000). Further, the Cardinal was distressed to learn that this submission was never responded to by the Archdiocesan lawyers. For this he apologises. Once again the Cardinal reiterated that he will do all in his power to ensure that this sort of legal abuse is never repeated again.

Finally, John, the Cardinal wishes for there to be ongoing dialogue with me for so long as it is helpful to you and for so long as I am physically able to meet with you. Of course, should I no longer be available, other Archdiocesan officials would be able to do so. It is clear to Cardinal Pell that an invitation from the Archdiocesan lawyers in September 2004 to meet and "resolve matters expeditiously" did not lead to such a meeting. Instead you were advised that the Archdiocese intended to "vigorously defend" the matter. The Cardinal apologises to you for this. As you said in your letter, this matter remains "unfathomable".

On a personal note, thank you for your kindness to me John and I too wish to join with the Cardinal in acknowledging your courage and faith over the years following the experience of sexual abuse. I admire you greatly.

Yours sincerely



Fr John Usher  
CHANCELLOR