



Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

File note

Date: 26 September 2013
Author: **Fr John Usher**
Re: **Meeting with Mr John Ellis**

As requested my Mr Ellis, Cardinal Pell met with him on 18 February 2009 at 4.00pm at Cathedral House. The Cardinal expressed his appreciation to Mr Ellis for attending the meeting. In return Mr Ellis thanked Cardinal Pell for agreeing to meet with him and organising such a meeting before he departed overseas.

Mr Ellis explained to the Cardinal the history relating to his allegation against Fr Aiden Duggan, who sexually assaulted him during his teenage years. He explained that his response from the officials from the Archdiocese of Sydney had been less than satisfactory. Although the initial response had been considerate and sympathetic, it quickly became non-communicative. Lapses of time intervened and he heard nothing from the Archdiocese. He requested some ex-gratia payment and was refused \$100,000 when requested. There was a further period of non-communication and in the final analysis he felt he had no other recourse other than to take legal action. He pointed out that at no time did any official of the church acknowledge his pain and suffering nor was there any acknowledgement that his claim may have been truthful.

He went on to say that this meeting with Cardinal Pell was "a significant step in helping him to deal with his past treatment by the church".

The Cardinal went on to indicate that he had no idea that Mr Ellis had sought an ex-gratia payment of \$100,000. Nor was he aware that no communication was entered into with Mr Ellis following an initial pastoral meeting. Most importantly the Cardinal indicated that he was not aware that the first official communication received by Mr Ellis from the Archdiocese was a solicitor's letter challenging his claim.

Mr Ellis indicated that through Fr Usher he was receiving some help with his medical expenses and he was appreciative of that assistance.

Mr Ellis was accompanied by his wife, Nicola Ellis, during the meeting and the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Fr John Usher, was also present. At the end of the meeting Mr Ellis thanked the Cardinal for his courtesy and his honesty in relation to the matters discussed.

The meeting closed at 5pm.

Fr John Usher
CHANCELLOR