



SECRETARIAT
FOR THE ECONOMY

The Prefect

Vatican City, 26 May 2015

Your Honour,

In light of the Ballarat hearings of the Royal Commission and public speculation about a perceived reluctance on my own part to give evidence, I write to restate my strong personal commitment to co-operating fully with the Commission and to assisting it in its work.

As I said in a public statement last week, I have been horrified at the accounts given by the survivors of abuse at the Ballarat hearings. The abuse so many have suffered and the terrible impact these crimes have had on their lives and families and the Catholic community of Ballarat are enormous. I am also deeply saddened at the failure of church authorities in responding to these crimes. I have the deepest sympathy for the victims of abuse, their families and the community of Ballarat for what they have suffered, and remain committed to doing anything I can to assist the Commission and support the survivors.

I appreciate that it is properly a matter for the Royal Commission to decide about who will be requested to give evidence and how that evidence is to be given. I note also with respect that no request to provide a statement or to give evidence has yet been made of me. At the same time, I would like to make it absolutely clear that I am willing, as I always have been, to give evidence should the Commission request this from me, be it by means of a statement, by video-link, or by attendance in person.

Yours sincerely,

George Card. PELL
Prefect

The Hon Justice
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Chair of the Royal Commission
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses
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