



*Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350*

*P.O. Box 121
Ballarat VIC 3353*

Phone: (03) 5337 7121

Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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Media Statement of Bishop Paul Bird

The Diocese is pleased that the sections of the final report of the Royal Commission released today are now publicly available and we will consider particularly the findings which relate to Cardinal Pell's time as a priest and consultor of the Diocese of Ballarat.

I acknowledge the past failings in governance in the Diocese that allowed the terrible abuse of so many children who were entitled to feel safe in their interactions with the church. The Diocese also acknowledges the tragic consequences of that abuse to those abused and their families.

The Diocese responds to all allegations of abuse and concerns about the welfare of children by reporting the allegations and concerns to the authorities.

The Diocese is also continuing to meet its legal and pastoral responsibilities to the victims of sexual abuse.

Paul Bird

Bishop of Ballarat