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Statement

The news of Cardinal Pell's conviction on historical child sexual abuse charges is particularly disturbing to the people of our diocese of Ballarat where George Pell grew up and where he served in his early years. I express my sympathies to all those who are distressed by this news, including those who have suffered so much because of abuse.

Cardinal Pell has lodged an appeal. I do not intend to make any further comment on the case while the appeal process is ongoing.

We will continue to offer help to anyone who has suffered abuse. We will also continue our commitment to keeping children safe today.

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat