



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

STATEMENT FROM ACBC PRESIDENT ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have closely followed Archbishop Philip Wilson's court case, including his conviction, his sentencing and now his intention to appeal his conviction.

We respect Archbishop Wilson's right to lodge that appeal; it is the right of any citizen. We also recognise the ongoing pain this has caused survivors, especially those who were abused by Jim Fletcher.

A number of survivors, prominent Australians and other members of the community have publicly called on Archbishop Wilson to resign. Although we have no authority to compel him to do so, a number of Australian bishops have also offered their advice privately. Only the Pope can compel a bishop to resign.

July 5, 2018