

**December 7 2015**

**STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL  
FOLLOWING THE 60 MINUTES PROGRAM 6 DECEMBER 2015**

*60 Minutes* on Sunday night largely repeated claims about Cardinal George Pell which it has been making at regular intervals since 2002, and which Cardinal Pell has repeatedly answered.

He will do so again when he gives evidence at the Royal Commission next week. It is not appropriate to pre-empt the work of the Royal Commission.

Everyone involved, but especially the survivors, is best served by truth and justice as essential ingredients for healing. The Cardinal's aim has always been to help survivors.

As usual, *60 Minutes* has reported on these matters very selectively. The Royal Commission has already thoroughly examined the Melbourne Response and so-called secret documents. The redress scheme proposed by the Royal Commission has some significant parallels with the Melbourne Response.

A statement was provided last month explaining why some witnesses will be cross-examined by Cardinal Pell's lawyers (see below). The Truth, Justice and Healing Council saw this as necessary and publicly supports Cardinal Pell in doing this.

Unsurprisingly, *60 Minutes* neglected to inform their viewers of this. *60 Minutes* also chose not to inform viewers that Mr Peter Saunders' false and ill-informed views about Cardinal Pell were offered without ever meeting or speaking with him.

As the Vatican Press Office has clarified, Mr Saunders speaks only for himself and not for the 17 member Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, which does not investigate or judge individual cases.