



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

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### Media Statement 5 December 2012

From the Catholic Bishop of Ballarat, Paul Bird:

“The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations will conduct hearings in Ballarat this Friday. The Inquiry will hear submissions particularly from those who have suffered abuse and those representing the people who have been hurt so deeply. I believe that it is right that those who have suffered are being heard first. Their submissions will form the basis of the Inquiry’s continuing work.”

“The Catholic Church in Victoria has made a detailed written submission to the Inquiry. It is anticipated that representatives of the Church will appear in person before the Inquiry Committee at a date yet to be set by the Committee. At that time, they will have the opportunity to speak to their submission and answer questions,” Bishop Paul said.

“In addition to its written submission, the Church is co-operating with the Inquiry to arrange for their access to the documents they require. These include documents from the Diocese of Ballarat.”

“Since my recent ordination as Bishop, I have been getting to know the people in the diocese, and hearing of the impact that this abuse has had on the victims, their families and our communities. I hope to respond as well as I can to those who have been hurt in the past and to those who still carry a legacy of pain,” said Bishop Paul. “I will also do my utmost to ensure the safety of children now and into the future.”

5 December 2012

**Catholic Diocese of Ballarat**

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