

Media Release

**Survivors Respond to Initial Redacted Royal Commission Findings**

While many in our community already knew what the findings have now proven to be true – today is a very hard day for survivors and their families.

So many people who are in a state of crisis and severe pain have contacted us.

Many are just trying to come to terms with the devastating effect the systemic failures of the Catholic Church have had on their lives.

These failures to act have resulted in countless lives being devastated and too many lives lost. Not only was this a failure of competency, it was and is an abject failure of decency and care.

I'd like to highlight some of the questions and feedback we have been receiving from survivors from all over Australia, as it is their voice that is so often lost at times like these.

**Survivors' Feedback:**

*"This is yet another blow to the healing and recovery process."*

*"What are the governments and institutions going to do to support and compensate the brave whistleblower's who came forwards?"*

*"What else have they (the Church) been hiding? Did they know about my offender?"*

*"Why is it so hard to stand up for the children that were preyed upon?"*

*"The destruction of so many lives was completely preventable. This didn't have to happen to me and my family"*

*"My friends have died"*

*"These findings go directly against the arrogant assumptions of many high profile commentators, that the Royal Commission findings would fully absolve Pell"*

However of all the questions, the hardest one to answer is this:

How was this ever allowed to happen?

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*\*All survivors' contributions were given on the condition of anonymity and no personal information will be distributed under any circumstances.*

*In Good Faith Foundation is national charity and support service providing advocacy services to individuals, families and communities impacted by institutional abuse for over twenty years.*