

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **CARDINAL GEORGE PELL RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA**

Cardinal George Pell has returned to Australia to defend sexual abuse charges.

When he was told of the charges by Victoria Police Cardinal Pell said in Rome he totally rejected the allegations, was completely innocent of the charges and would return to Australia to vigorously defend himself and clear his name.

His return today then should not be a surprise.

Before leaving Rome the Cardinal consulted his doctors and on their advice took several days to return home, breaking his journey in a number of places to avoid long-haul flights.

Cardinal Pell will not be making further comment other than to say he is grateful for the numerous messages of support he continues to receive.

- Spokesperson for Card. Pell

ENDS