

MEDIA RELEASE



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22 August 2014

TRUCKING INDUSTRY CRIES FOUL TO NATIONAL INSULT

Cardinal George Pell has publicly insulted every truck driver in Australia, the Chair of the Australian Trucking Association, Noelene Watson, said today.

She was responding to Cardinal Pell's comments to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse yesterday, where he stated that the Catholic Church was no more responsible for priests who abuse children than a trucking company would be if they employed a driver who molested women.

"There are more than 170,000 professional truck drivers in Australia. They have families and children. Cardinal Pell's analogy is a deep insult to every one of them," Mrs Watson said.

"These comments are a desperate attempt to deflect attention from the Royal Commission being faced by the Catholic Church and other institutions that deal with children.

"Cardinal Pell must realise that he cannot solve these problems by insulting Australia's hardworking truck drivers, who deliver the goods we use every day."

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About the ATA: The Australian Trucking Association (www.truck.net.au) is the peak body that represents the trucking industry. Its members include state and sector trucking associations, major logistics companies and operators and suppliers with leading expertise in truck technology.