



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



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A Sad Day for Abuse Survivors: Statement from Stuart Grimley MP

In a very sad day for abuse survivors across the country, George Pell's conviction has been quashed.

The full bench of the High Court came to this decision, undermining the bravery of all survivors who have come forward to tell the truth about the terrible events in their past.

I see this decision as another form of abuse our legal system is bestowing upon survivors of sexual abuse in this country.

It is one of the most difficult tasks to go public, to go through our arduous court system and speak about horrific events such as sexual abuse and I ask abuse survivors that despite this awful result today that you still speak out, that you still fight for justice.

Of course, I would like to extend my sympathies to victims and their families at this extremely difficult time.

I would also like to take a moment to say thank you to abuse survivor support groups such as *LOUD Fence* in Ballarat and *Victim Justice* in Geelong for doing the amazing work you have been doing for years. We will unfortunately now need you more than ever.

This is not the end for justice for victims of sexual assault – but it is undoubtedly an extremely heavy blow.

Keep your heads up, survivors. Let's continue to fight to send these bastards to where they belong.

And to all survivors of child sexual abuse, rest assured that you have the support of us and many, many people in the community who continue to demand justice.

- ENDS -