

**Derryn Hinch** @HumanHeadline · Dec 2

For Tony Abbott, a former Prime Minister, to visit Pell, a convicted paedophile, is a disgrace and a cruel insult to his victims.

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804

4.9K

**Greg Barns** @BarnsGreg · Dec 2

Bullshit. Every prisoner is entitled to visitors

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**Gay Alcorn** @Gay_Alcorn · Dec 2

indeed, a friend can visit a friend in prison, surely - Abbott is not even an MP. Manufactured, shallow, outrage.

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**Louise Milligan** @Milliganreports · Dec 2

Gay, I don't think it's manufactured or shallow. Public shows of support like this from powerful people for convicted paedophile are desperately hurtful to his victims. I've spoken to 100s of survivors and they say pain of not being believed/supported can be as bad pain of abuse.

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**Louise Milligan** @Milliganreports · Dec 2

And how much more, in this particular case, can a person take? I worry desperately for him. Imagine plucking up courage to come forward against such a powerful person, enduring four years of legal hell, securing a conviction and an appeal, only to be met with this? It's too much.

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**Louise Milligan** @Milliganreports · Dec 2

People have friends, but if those friends destroyed children's lives, well kids' lives should be worth something. When people turned their back on this issue, Derryn stood up for children. I wouldn't break law in way he did, but I respect his fierce commitment to child protection

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**Greg Barns** @BarnsGreg · Dec 2

You miss the point. Hinch doesn't think prisoners have rights. In a civilized society they do.

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**Louise Milligan** @Milliganreports · Dec 2

I don't miss point. & I don't think Derryn's saying that. He was, after all, a prisoner himself. Prisoners ought to be treated with humanity & decency. But a whole slab of public discourse is devoted to discrediting Pell's victims bc it suits political agendas. It's unforgivable.

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**CatholicWatcher** @watchincatholic · Dec 3

A whole slab of public discourse is also devoted to asking if the Pell verdicts should be upheld, including from people who haven't any allegiance to the Cardinal and/or the Church but an interest in the justice system

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Gay Alcorn @Gay_Alcorn · Dec 3

Indeed, given dissenting judge is highly respected and the most experienced of the 3 in criminal matters (and as a former prosecutor not instinctively disposed towards defence), it remains a fraught case. You don't have to be a one-eyed Pell supporter to acknowledge that.

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Louise Milligan @Milliganreports · Dec 3

His experience is Commonwealth jurisdiction. Not sexual matters. Perhaps why he thought grabbing boy's genitals in busy corridor implausibly brazen. I'd invite his Honour to speak to women. Not sure about you, Gay, but happened to me, many times. & my friends. Men do that stuff.

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Greg Barns @BarnsGreg · Dec 4

Wrong Weinberg JA has extensive experience in criminal law both state and federal. He is regarded as the top criminal appeal judge in Australia.

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Louise Milligan @Milliganreports · Dec 4

Point I am making is I can't see how his expertise in relation to sexual assault per se is any more that the President of the court.

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Louise Milligan @Milliganreports · Dec 4

Maxwell P & Ferguson CJ unfairly maligned by Pell's supporters as lacking crim experience compared to Justice Weinberg. Eg: Keith Windschuttle, who attended Abbott's recent gala dinner after publishing appalling comments about Anne Ferguson being in a feminist conspiracy vs Pell.

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Gay Alcorn @Gay_Alcorn · Dec 4

Agree maligned. Am not a Pell supporter and a few of those ugly and irresponsible, but am married to a criminal barrister and know many. no doubt Weinberg v respected and his dissent important. Kidd also v well regarded and ran case fairly. Let's see what high court says.

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Louise Milligan @Milliganreports · Dec 4

Of course he's respected. I sat in on the Gargasoluas case & he was impressive. I am just testing the assumptions & sweeping statements made about him being the great criminal judge in comparison to majority. And I thought that offensively brazen line of argument very surprising.