

**Assemblies of God in Australia**  
**Special Executive Meeting**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2000**  
**Hillsong Church, Castle Hill.**

Present: J. Lewis (Chairman), B. Houston, P. Hills, D. Cartledge, A. Davies, S. Penny, D. Guglielmucci, W. Alcorn, K. Ainge.

**1. Opening and Prayer**

A meeting was called, at short notice to discuss accusations that have been raised against Frank Houston.

After a brief introduction from Brian Houston, David Cartledge opened in prayer

**2. Introduction.**

Brian Houston outlined the accusations that have been raised against Frank Houston, in relation to inappropriate sexual behaviour with boys around 33 years ago.

He outlined how a man from New Zealand has met with him, outlining an event that allegedly took place 33 years ago. The complainant indicated that he has no desire to be a part of any action against Frank Houston but he is requesting a personal meeting with him, a seminar with Brian Houston's pastors (to discuss the dangers of abuse) and funding for further study in the USA.

Brian outlined the actions of the New Zealand executive in investigating rumours of inappropriate behaviour involving Frank Houston and between two and five people. They are meeting from the 26<sup>th</sup> November to discuss further action.

Brian Houston then handed the meeting to John Lewis for him to take the chair. Brian Houston then left the room as discussions took place in relation to the appropriate action to be taken by the Assemblies of God in Australia.

**3. Action**

Following extensive discussion, the following was resolved:

- a. It was noted that the new allegations (as outlined above) have not yet been presented to Frank Houston and no action can be taken at this meeting without contravening the process of natural justice. However, it was agreed that consideration should be given to the action to be taken if the accusations are made and proven.
- b. It was noted that the National Executive is handling this issue, to this point, rather than the State Executive because of the profile of Frank Houston. The precedent has been set with the discipline of AMF

- c. It was agreed that, on the available evidence, the accusations against Frank Houston are allegations of child molestation.
- d. It was agreed to ask Robert Fergusson, with a witness, to interview Frank Houston as soon as possible, to confront him with the accusations and ascertain whether he admits to them. It was also agreed that Robert be authorised to inform Frank that his credential is still withdrawn and he is not free to preach until all accusations have been dealt with, to the satisfaction of the National Executive.
- e. If Frank Houston does not admit to the accusations, it was agreed that the National Executive will follow the investigative procedure as outlined in the Manual on the Restoration and Reinstatement of Disciplined Ministers.
- f. If he admits to the accusations, it was agreed that: "On the basis of current information he should never have his credential reissued and he will never be allowed to preach again."
- g. It was agreed that State Presidents of the Assemblies of God in Australia be informed as soon as investigations are complete and that Frank Houston be informed that The National Executive would be obliged to make the situation known to all of our ministers if he fails to comply with the total withdrawal from ministry.
- h. It was agreed that J. Lewis and K. Ainge travel to New Zealand and meet with the New Zealand Assemblies of God Executive to explain the stand that has been taken by the Australian Executive.
- i. It was agreed that J. Lewis and K. Ainge prepare a statement, following the trip to New Zealand to be used if people here rumours and make enquiries in relation to the situation. The statement will be presented to the National Executive, for ratification, prior to its use.
- j. It was agreed that J. Lewis meet with F. Houston on his return from New Zealand to inform him about the results of the investigation.

Moved: A. Davies

Seconded: P. Hills

Carried unanimously.

#### **4. Restoration**

It was agreed that the responsibility for care and restoration be placed in the hands of the local church and that Frank and Hazel Houston be offered counselling. Note: In this instance, restoration does not relate to restoration to ministry. It was agreed by the Executive that restoration to ministry will not be possible if any of the accusations prove substantive.