



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

21 August 2014

Reverend Trevor Leggott
Australian Indigenous Ministries
General Director

REDACTED

BY EMAIL: REDACTED

Dear Rev. Leggott

RE: Statement for Case Study 17 - the Retta Dixon Home

1. The Royal Commission has been established to inquire into child sexual abuse in an institutional context. Details of the relevant Letters Patent, including the terms of reference of the Royal Commission, can be found at:
<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/LettersPatent>.
2. The Royal Commission will hold a public hearing in Darwin commencing on Monday 22 September 2014, looking at a number of matters concerning the Retta Dixon Home.
3. The scope and purpose of the public hearing is to:
 - a) Hear the experience of men and women who were sexually abused as children at the Retta Dixon Home in Darwin, Northern Territory between 1946 – 1980.
 - b) Inquire into the response of the Australian Indigenous Ministries (formally the Aborigines Inland Mission) (AIM) and the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments to allegations of child sexual abuse against AIM workers who were employed at the Retta Dixon Home.
 - c) Inquire into the response of the Northern Territory's Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1975 and 2002 to allegations raised by residents of the Retta Dixon Home against Donald Henderson.
 - d) Inquire into the current laws, policies and procedures governing children in out-of-home care in the Northern Territory today.
 - e) Inquire into the redress schemes available to persons who were victims of child sexual abuse while resident at the Retta Dixon Home.

- f) Any other related matters.
4. The Royal Commission requests that you prepare a written statement addressing those aspects of the scope and purpose that are within AIM's knowledge, together with the following issues:
- a. AIM's historical organisational structure, including during its years it operated and oversaw the Retta Dixon Home;
 - b. AIM's historical policies for the recruitment/screening of personnel and training of workers in relation to working with children, in particular, those applicable to the Retta Dixon Home;
 - c. AIM's archival holdings in relation to the Retta Dixon Home including what it currently holds, what it donated to the State Library of New South Wales (and why) and what was suspected to be lost in Cyclone Tracey in 1974;
 - d. the organisational structure of AIM today including details on the current missions it operates, and the work they do (particularly in the Northern Territory);
 - e. AIM's current policies for the recruitment/screening of personnel and training of workers in relation to working with children;
 - f. how AIM investigates/responds to contemporary complaints of child sexual abuse against its workers;
 - g. how AIM investigates/responds to, or would investigate/respond to historical complaints of child sexual abuse; and
 - h. AIM's current knowledge, or awareness of, allegations of child sexual abuse at the Retta Dixon Home, and AIM's response(s) to any allegations that it has received from former residents of Retta Dixon Home in relation to child sexual abuse that occurred there.
5. Where appropriate, the statement should refer to or attach any relevant documents.

Access to documents

6. Parties with leave to appear will be given access to the tender bundle and witness statements in due course. The public hearing into the Retta Dixon Home will be announced later this week and interested parties are invited to apply for leave to appear then. Details are on the Royal Commission website:
<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/public-hearings>.

Timeframe

7. The Royal Commission would appreciate the above statement to be prepared by no later than Friday 5 September 2014, at which time the Royal Commission intends to require their production under Summons.


Attendance at the public hearing

8. The Royal Commission may summon you to give evidence at the public hearing commencing on Monday 22 September 2014 at the Supreme Court Building in Darwin. The Royal

Commission will review the material provided in the statement before making such a decision.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely



Tony Giugni
Solicitor Assisting
Office of the Solicitor Assisting

REDACTED