

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Royal Commission of Inquiry into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse</b> <b>Hillsong Church Ltd Summary of Details Form</b></p>
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Number: 1

Name of Hillsong Worker: Pastor William Francis (Frank) Houston

Date & Nature of Allegation:

The following statement is made by George Aghajanian (GA), General Manager of Hillsong Church Ltd, as a recollection of events which occurred in the latter months of 1999.

The initial allegation came via a telephone call to Pastor Bill Johnston (BJ) (now deceased) from a Minister identifying himself as 'Mad Dog'. As he began to explain the allegation against Ps Frank Houston (FH), BJ advised that this matter needed to be dealt with by one of the Elders of the Church and transferred the call to GA.

'Mad Dog' proceeded to explain to GA that a woman had approached him during one of his ministry sermons and advised him that her son had been sexually abused as a child by FH. 'Mad Dog' accused Hillsong of covering this up. GA assured him that he had never heard of such an allegation about FH, that there was no cover-up and he would investigate the matter. That afternoon GA had a meeting with Pastor Brian Houston (BH), Senior Pastor of Hillsong Church, where he informed BH of the allegation. BH was shocked by the allegation concerning his father and advised GA that he had never heard anything to that effect previously.

FH was away overseas for several weeks at the time and upon his return BH confronted him with the allegation. FH confirmed the allegation to be true and that it related to an incident that happened over 30 years earlier.

Within the course of the next 12 months a second allegation was received by BH. He met the individual for coffee in the city and he told BH that FH had abused him in NZ as a minor. Over the ensuing months, another allegation was brought to our attention from New Zealand; all of which was new information to us and neither BH nor the senior team of Hillsong Church had any prior knowledge. By now the matter had been referred to the ACC. As BH was the President of the ACC at the time, the ACC had asked him to remove himself from the matter as FH was his father to allow for a thorough investigation.

Actions Taken:

FH was immediately stood down from all ministry at the church and the matter was referred to the Australian Christian Churches (ACC) formerly known as the AOG. It is our understanding that the ACC National Executive met towards the end of December 1999 to discuss this matter.

Following the conclusion of the ACC investigation, FH was stripped of his pastoral credentials and forbidden to preach or minister again.

FH was asked to leave Hillsong Church and he subsequently moved to the Central Coast with his wife to live out his retirement until he passed away in 2004.

As the alleged victims were adults at the time of the allegations and there were no new or current reports of any further incidents with minors, Hillsong Church did not report FH to DOCS or the police.