



Our Reference: ARM:MK:1941104
Your Reference:

28 October 2014

David Morris
Chairman of the Hutchins School Board

By email

Dear David

Royal Commission

I provide this update to you regarding our work in preparing for the Royal Commission hearing. I confirm the hearing has been listed at the Federal Court building commencing on the 19 November, 2014 until 28 November, 2014.

Statements have been completed for the following persons:

- Mr John Bednall
- Mr William Toppin
- Mr Warwick Dean
- Bishop Ron Stone
- Bishop John Harrower

These statements have all been filed with the Royal Commission. The statements outline the history of the persons involvement with the complaints made by and . They include all correspondence that occurred during those periods.

In the statement of Warwick Dean there is also reference to the School's current policies and educational programs for students which are relevant to this issue.

As a result of the statements to the School community regarding the public hearing a number of former students have come forward and reported their experience of abuse which occurred in the 1960's to the School. Mr Warwick Dean appointed Mr Alan Dear to act as support facilitator in receiving those complaints in accordance with the 'Policy for dealing with Complaints received by

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Adults of Sexual Abuse whilst attending the School'. Apparently many former students just want to have their story recorded and do not wish to take the matter further, others have accepted offers of counselling. All persons have been advised to report the matter to the police and to the Royal Commission. Your current policy provides a proper process to deal with these historical complaints.

An apology has been issued by Mr Warwick Dean on behalf of the School to Mr AOA a copy of that apology is **attached**. This was done in consultation with you and Neil Clelland QC.

Mr Neil Clelland QC has been fully briefed and I met with him last Friday when I was in Melbourne on other business. We have arranged for the briefing of all witnesses to be conducted in the week beginning the 10 November, 2014. Mr Toppin's briefing will occur in Melbourne next week. For your information the Royal Commission will pay the traveling expenses for all the witnesses to attend the hearing.

We have cooperated fully with various requests received from the Royal Commission both in relation to documents and to the statements. I have been advised today that we will receive a further request for documents in relation to 2 teachers at the School in the 1960's and from whom the Commission has recently received complaints of their behaviour. Those persons are Ronald Thomas and Ken Dexter.

Two weeks prior to the hearing we will receive copies of the witness statements on which the Commission rely and will then have a clearer view as to the focus of the Commission at the hearing.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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