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**Contact:** Julianna Demetrius  
**Tel:** 9286 0920  
**Our ref:** ADM/2013/839

13 February 2015

Mr Enzo Camporeale  
Acting Solicitor Assisting  
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse  
GPO Box 5283  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Attention: Ms Rachel Deane**

Dear Mr Camporeale,

**Royal Commission into Institutional responses to child sexual abuse – request for statements: Knox Grammar hearing**

I refer to the Royal Commission's request for additional information, dated 14 January 2015, to inform its public hearing into allegations of child sexual abuse perpetrated by teachers against students at Knox Grammar School.

As you know, on 22 December 2014 we provided a range of information and documents in response to the Commission's earlier request dated 3 December 2014.

Our statement in response to the Commission's most recent request for information is attached. In answering the Commission's 19 questions about our work with independent schools and Knox Grammar School more specifically, we have considered it useful to provide additional, contextual information about our functions under Part 3A of the *Ombudsman Act 1974*, and the evolution of these functions and our practices since the reportable conduct scheme was initially established in NSW in 1999.

Part 1 of this statement provides a broad overview of our employment-related child protection jurisdiction, including the types of agencies that fall within the reportable conduct scheme; how reportable allegations and reportable conduct are defined; and the intersection of the reportable conduct scheme with the Working with Children Check scheme administered by the Office of the Children's Guardian. A number of the questions asked by the Commission relating to our current operational practices and work with police are also addressed in this part of the statement.

Part 2 of the statement addresses the remainder of the issues raised by the Commission's questions, particularly those that go to our oversight of specific cases involving Knox Grammar School. A copy of the Commission's questions is attached (see Annexure 1).

We have also provided the Commission with a number of case studies to illustrate the nature of our proactive role in identifying individuals who may pose a risk to children, and facilitating the exchange of risk-related information between agencies; **while de-identified, the case studies contain highly sensitive information and include matters that are still before the Courts** (see Annexure 2). **The case studies contained in Annexure 2 are provided to the Commission on a confidential basis and we request that they not be tabled publicly.**

To further assist the Commission, we have attached a range of additional documents, including several of our child protection factsheets and practice updates for agencies and copies of relevant legal advices.

My office will fully assist the Commission and provide any additional information that may be required. In this regard, please note that Mr Steve Kinmond, Deputy Ombudsman and Community and Disability Services Commissioner, has immediate responsibility for the functional area of my office that relates to the subject matter of your inquiry.

The information in this letter and attachments is released to the Royal Commission pursuant to section 34(2) of the *Ombudsman Act 1974*.

I trust that the information provided is of assistance to the Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Julianna Demetrius on 9286 0920 if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Barbour  
**Ombudsman**