

Statement


Name Natalie Howson
Address Level 8, 11 Moore Street, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Occupation Director-General, ACT Community Services Directorate
Date 6 June 2014

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. The Community Services Directorate (**CSD**) is charged with administering the *Children and Young People Act 2008 (the Act)*. Precursors of the Act include *Children Services Act 1986* and the *Child Welfare Ordinance 1959*. For ease of reference I will refer to these acts collectively as the “child protection acts”. Prior to CSD, numerous departments charged with administering the child protection acts (collectively, and inclusive of CSD, referred to as **the Departments**).
3. Records kept by the Departments have been kept on two databases. The first is a centralised data base known as the ‘TRIM Context database’ (**TRIM**). TRIM maintains metadata about the clients of the Departments arising from reports made under the child protection acts dating back to 1963. The second database, known as the Client Info System contains all records of Child Protection Notifications in the ACT for the period April 1990 to December 1999.
4. In response to a Notice to Produce No C-NP-331 issued to me by the Royal Commission of inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse, staff of CSD have interrogated both TRIM and the Client Info System searching for any reports or records of allegations or complaints of child sexual abuse concerning John William Chute (DOB: 13 June 1932, also known as Br Kostka) and/or Gregory Sutton (DOB: 19 March 1951). Searches conducted included searches for possible variations in the spelling of each name. No records could be found of any such reports being made to the Departments. Annexed hereto and marked “A” is a copy of my response to the Commission in relation to the Notice to Produce.

Signed: 

Statement of Natalie Howson

5. Searches of both databases have also been conducted by CSD staff in relation to any communication with anyone from Marist Brothers concerning John Chute or Gregory Sutton. There were no records found of any such communication between Marist Brothers and the Departments.

Signed: 

Date: 6 June 2014