



Royal Commission into  
Institutional Responses to  
Child Sexual Abuse

19 August 2014

Andrew Cappie-Wood  
Director General  
Department of Attorney-General and Justice

C/- Megan Smith  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Level 2, Bligh House  
4-6 Bligh Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cappie-Wood

**Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission)**

The Royal Commission intends to hold a public hearing in Sydney commencing on 22 October 2014 in relation to alleged child sexual abuse at Bethcar Children's Home in Brewarrina, New South Wales (Bethcar) and subsequent civil litigation involving the alleged victims of the abuse and the state of New South Wales.

As part of its scope and purpose, the public hearing may consider the policy rationale for the enactment of the *Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act 1996*, its repeal, and the subsequent enactment of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

The Royal Commission requests that you, as Director General of the Department of Attorney-General and Justice, either prepare or cause to be prepared a statement or statements addressing the following matters:

1. the policy rationale for the enactment of the *Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act 1996* (1996 Act);
2. the policy rationale for the repeal of the 1996 Act and the enactment of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013* (2013 Act);
3. the interaction of the 1996 Act and 2013 Act with civil or criminal proceedings instituted in relation to the alleged conduct the subject of an application under either of those Acts;
4. the significant differences, if any, between the victim compensation schemes established by the 1996 Act and the 2013 Act, with specific reference to:
  - a. time limits in relation to applications by child victims of sexual assault;
  - b. maximum compensation payments for victims;
  - c. maximum financial assistance for victims.

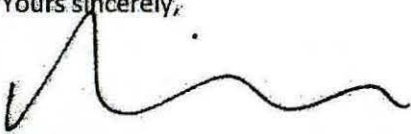
Where appropriate, such statements should refer to or attach relevant documents.

Royal Commission | GPO Box 5283 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia  
T 1300 229 776 W [childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

The Royal Commission would appreciate the documents being prepared by no later than 12 September 2014 at which time the Royal Commission intends to require their production under summons. The Royal Commission may summon to give evidence the persons who make the statements referred to above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Giugni

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