



Royal Commission
 into Institutional Responses
 to Child Sexual Abuse

22 August 2014

Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter
 Director-General
 Department of Family & Community Services
 234 Sussex Street
 SYDNEY NSW

C/- Mr Ian Fraser
 A/Special Counsel
 NSW Crown Solicitor's Office
 Level 5, 60-70 Elizabeth Street
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Coutts-Trotter

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 institutional responses to child sexual abuse at Bethcar Children's Home in Brewarrina and subsequent civil litigation involving the alleged victims of the abuse and the state of New South Wales.

It is proposed that the scope and purpose of the public hearing will include, and focus primarily on, an exploration of the civil proceedings in *Kathleen Monica Biles & 14 Ors v State of New South Wales* (proceeding No 2008/316976) in the District Court at Sydney (the Bethcar civil proceedings).

The Royal Commission requests that you, as the Director-General of the Department of Family and Community Services, prepare a statement setting out a chronological narrative of the State's response to the civil claims brought by victims of child sexual abuse at Bethcar, and addressing the specific matters listed in Annexure A to this letter. As the civil litigation commenced in May 2008 and concluded in early 2014, it may be the case that some questions in Annexure A may be more appropriately addressed in separate statement(s) by the responsible Director-General of the Department of Family and Community Services at the relevant time.

The Royal Commission would appreciate the documents being prepared by no later than 19 September 2014 at which time the Royal Commission intends to require their production under summons.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Giugni', with a stylized, wavy line extending to the right.

Tony Giugni

Solicitor Assisting

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