

Annexure 1



Royal Commission into
Institutional Responses to
Child Sexual Abuse

14 July 2014

Janet Loughman
Principal Solicitor
Women's Legal Services
PO Box 206
Lidcombe NSW 1825

Dear Janet

Re: Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse – Bethcar Children's Home, Brewarrina

We refer to previous communications in relation to this Case Study, and submissions provided to the Royal Commission by your office dated 31 March 2014 ('Confidential submission to Royal Commission Issues Paper 5: Civil Litigation'). As you are aware, the Royal Commission will hold a public hearing commencing on 21 October 2014 in relation to events arising out of child sexual abuse that took place at Bethcar Children's Home in Brewarrina.

It is proposed that the scope and purpose of the public hearing will include the following matters:-

1. The experience of the victims of child sexual abuse at Bethcar Children's Home in Brewarrina.
2. The monitoring, supervision and oversight of the managers/carers of Bethcar Children's Home, Bert and Edith Gordon, and Colin Gibson, by the State of New South Wales.
3. The response and approach taken by the State of New South Wales, including the Department of Community Services and the Crown Solicitor's Office, in their conduct of civil proceedings brought by fifteen plaintiff victims of child sexual abuse in 2008 in the District Court of New South Wales at Sydney.
4. The impact of the civil litigation process on the plaintiffs.
5. The operation and effectiveness of the victims compensation regime in New South Wales in the context of compensation sought by victims of child sexual abuse at Bethcar Children's Home.
6. Any other related matters.

The Royal Commission requests that you either prepare or cause to be prepared a statement addressing the matters listed at Annexure A to this letter. Where appropriate, such statements should attach relevant documents.

In addition to a statement from you, it may be that statements by a number of different persons with specific knowledge or involvement in certain events will be required.



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Please advise us once the documents are prepared, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LR' or similar initials.

Laila Ragupathy

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