

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES  
TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE  
AT DARWIN

CASE STUDY 17

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
*Royal Commissions Act 1902*

PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO  
THE RETTA DIXON HOME

FOURTH WITNESS STATEMENT  
OF TREVOR IAN LEGGOTT

I, **REVEREND TREVOR IAN LEGGOTT**, Director, of **REDACTED**  
**RED** in the State of New South Wales, say:

1. I am the General Director of Australian Indigenous Ministries Pty Ltd ("**AIM**").
2. I make this fourth witness statement to inform the Royal Commission as to further developments since I gave evidence on 30 September 2014 and subsequent to the submissions made to the Royal Commission, on behalf of AIM and myself, on 17 November 2014.
3. The central purpose in providing this statement to the Royal Commission is to further address the issue of a public apology and secondly, redress.

**A. Apology**

4. On behalf of AIM I have previously made an unreserved apology at this Royal Commission to the victims.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, I have stated that a national apology would be published in *The Australian* newspaper.<sup>2</sup> The public apology will be published in *The Australian* on 3 December 2014.

**B. Financial Compensation**

5. I have previously stated that AIM was not in a position to offer any financial compensation to the victims of sexual abuse that occurred at Retta Dixon Home. The General Council of AIM has, subsequent to 17 November 2014, reconsidered its position in relation to this matter. Attached to this statement

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<sup>1</sup> See Transcript of Trevor Leggott at **C5580** (day 51) [line 41]. See Transcript of Trevor Leggott at **C5640** (day 51) [line 27].

<sup>2</sup> Paras 24 and 25 of the Third Witness Statement of Trevor Leggott.

is a copy of a valuation<sup>3</sup> of an unencumbered property, owned by AIM located at 366 Hawkesbury Road, Winmalee in the State of New South Wales ("Winmalee"). The valuation is a 'drive-by' one, in other words, the agent who made the valuation did not have internal access to the property. Nevertheless, the valuation of the property is for \$350,000 - \$380,000.

6. AIM has resolved to place the net proceeds of the sale of the Winmalee<sup>4</sup> property into a fund for the purpose of providing financial compensation to the victims of sexual abuse that occurred at Retta Dixon Home. Neither AIM or myself consider it appropriate to have any role in the apportioning or payment of monies to the victims individually. It should be made clear that the Winmalee property is set aside for AIM's operational activities in New South Wales. As a consequence of the sale of this property, this will have a very significant negative impact upon AIM's activities in New South Wales. Nevertheless, AIM will sell the Winmalee property in recognition of its moral obligations, expressed in the form of Redress, to the victims of sexual abuse that occurred at Retta Dixon Home.
7. I would anticipate that the sale of the Winmalee property would take approximately 2 – 4 months.
8. I am advised by my solicitor Mr McDuff, Partner of CridlandsMB Lawyers, that both he and my counsel, Mr Thomas, have contacted Mr Alistair Wyvill SC of William Forster Chambers in Darwin ("Mr Wyvill SC"), who has advised that he is willing to oversee the apportionment of monies from the fund to the victims.

Dated: 27 November 2014



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**Rev Trevor Leggott**  
General Director  
Australian Indigenous Ministries

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<sup>3</sup> Century 21 Combined Real Estate Agents.

<sup>4</sup> Less agent's fees, legal cost, paying outstanding utilities.