

STATEMENT OF JAMES MEIN

Name: JAMES MEIN AM

Address: 222 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2000

Occupation: Trustee Director and Board Chairman

Date: 13 February 2015

1 This statement made by me sets out the evidence that I will give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (**the Royal Commission**). This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I make an oath and say as follows.

2 I have carefully read the Royal Commission's letter addressed to me dated 11 February 2015 (**the Royal Commission's letter**) which sets out a number of questions in relation to the document identified as **UCA.101.005.0099**.

3 I cannot speak for Mr Feehely and I do not know what was in his mind or why he made the statements in the email. I can do no more than speculate or guess as to his intentions or meaning many years after the event.

4 Equally, I acknowledge that The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod NSW and ACT (**The Synod**) wishes to cooperate fully with the Royal Commission, as do I, and on that basis I make this statement.

Question 1: To your knowledge, who is the 'solicitor' that Mr Feehely refers to in this email

5 I do not know.

6 On reading the email in context, I can only infer that the reference may be to Ms Wendy Blacker of Gadens, who was The Synod's solicitor or Mr Rob Wannan, the then Chair of the Knox School Council. I make this inference on the basis that both solicitors' names appear on earlier emails in the chain.

Question 2: To your knowledge, who is the 'Jim' that Mr Feehely refers to in this email

7 I assume that it a reference to me on the basis that I forwarded the email to Mr Feehely five minutes before his email to Mr Lee.

Question 3(1): To your knowledge, what does Mr Feehely mean in this email when he says 'Jim is quite a problem for us at present'?

8 I do not know.

Question 3(2): To your knowledge, what has given rise to Mr Feehely's suspicion or knowledge about this.

9 I do not know whether or what suspicions Mr Feehely held. I do not know what Mr Feehely's knowledge was at the time or subsequently. I do not know what 'problem' he refers to. I do not know who 'us' refers to.

Question 4(1): To your knowledge, what is Mr Feehely referring to in this email when he says that 'the solicitor ... is one who has been advising the school to destroy documents, with Jims (sic) assistance'?

10 I do not know.

11 This is not an allegation Mr Feehely ever raised with me. It is not an allegation raised with me by any another person or at any time before now. I deny absolutely that I assisted a solicitor or any other person destroy documents.

Question 4(2): To your knowledge, what has given rise to Mr Feehely's suspicion or knowledge about this.

12 I do not know.

Signed: _____

Witness: _____