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### Supplementary Statement

Name: Christopher John Charles OLIVER

Address: Known to the Royal Commission

Occupation: Horticulturist

Date: Friday 5th February, 2016.

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Case Study 36) further and in addition to the 13 page statement I have already made to this Royal Commission which was sworn on 18th January 2016 (hereafter "my original statement").
2. This supplementary statement provides further details of subject matters appearing in my original statement.
3. I refer to and repeat paragraphs 2, 3 & 4 of my original statement.

#### **My involvement in the CEBS:**

3. Further to paragraph 8 and 9 of my original statement, I believe that between the years of approximately 1971 and 1987 I was not involved with CEBS.

#### **National Council of CEBS:**

4. Further to paragraph 22 of my original statement wherein I explain the role of the Primate as National Council President, the National Council reports to the Primate. The National Council does not report to the General Synod. CEBS is a church society. Wherein it refers to the Chairman of the National Council, during my time on the National Council since 2002 the position of chairman has been held by members of clergy (as has the position of treasurer).
5. Further to paragraph 27 of original statement wherein I outline the role of secretary, I have been asked to clarify that I am a layman, performing that role of national secretary in a voluntary capacity. Wherein I refer to recording minutes of National Council meetings, I clarify that this does not necessarily mean that I personally take the minutes at each meeting. For example, please refer to the 2008 and 2009 national council minutes (**See respectively: CEBS:0004.001.0762 at .0769 & ASQ.502.001.0787 at .0799**).

6. Further to paragraph 23 of my original statement wherein I have stated that the National Council has not met since 2013, it is hoped that the National Council can reconvene again (where I anticipate that a motion will be moved to formally close the National Council).

**National Council policies and procedures:**

7. Further to paragraphs 29 of my original statement referring to development of child protection policies, the constitutional power for the drawing and implementation of such policies is vested in the dioceses. At national conference in 2006, it is minuted that: "*There was a discussion of child protection requirements, noting that these vary from state to state but that each CEBS group is required to comply with their own state's law and any additional diocesan requirements*". (See: CEBS.0004.001.0754 at .0757).

To that extent, the National Council's function has been limited essentially to an information sharing role in relation to these policies.

For example, when I attended my first national council conference in 2002 (at that time in my capacity a representative of Western Australia State Councillor for CEBS), I tabled the latest update of the "*Dioceses of Perth Protocol on Child Protection*". At that meeting, I undertook to make that policy document available to all dioceses and subsequently did so. This followed provision of an earlier draft of the Western Australian child protection policy document earlier tabled at the 1997 National Council meeting (See: CEBS.0004.001.0673 at .0676).

By way of further example, at the national conference held in 2003 (ie: the following year), the dioceses of Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Gippsland, Melbourne and Sydney reported to the national council on their respective development of child protection policies in the previous year. (See: CEBS.0004.001.0682 at .0683).

By way of final example, at the national conference held in 2004, the Brisbane Diocese presented their child protection policy document titled "*Protection Policy for Children & Young People*". At the same conference, the minutes record: "*Most dioceses currently have developed or are developing their own policies. General Synod is in the [process] of developing a national policy*". (See: CEBS.0004.001.0692 at .0695).

**National Council response to child sexual abuse:**

8. I refer to paragraph 36 of my original statement wherein I confirm that the critical issue of child protection and issues associated with child safety and perpetration of abuse against

children was variously discussed at national council including my years in attendance at same. In particular, note that a motion was moved and carried during the 2004 National Conference that: *"The National Council expresses its abhorrence of abuse in form, particularly child sex abuse, and that the society may, from time to time, revoke national awards on the recommendation of member dioceses"*. [See: CEBS.0004.001.0692 at .0695].

9. Further to paragraph 40 of my original statement wherein I stated that consideration was given by national council as to whether an apology ought be issued, I provide further detail as follows:

- (9.1) The 2008 national council minutes record under subheading *"Apology of National Council for past abuse by CEBS leaders"* the following: *"The[re] was general discussion of this and surrounding issues. Moved that this Council is minded to consider a form of 'apology' (in relation [to] the past p[a]edophile activity and other abuse within the CEBS movement) but seeks, through its Chairman, the guidance of the dioceses as to the propriety of this and the form. - Ken Pigeon/Alan Victor. Carried. Action: The National Chairman."* (See: CEBS:0004.001.0762 at .0768)
- (9.2) The 2009 national council minutes record under subheading *"Consideration of an apology in relation to ANY paedophile activity"* the following: *"The previous chairman, after much prayer and consideration, decided that the issue of any form of apology may attract any unnecessary publicity, or draw attention to the actions of a very small minority of offenders. Any apologies should be handled by the formal Diocesan authorities. The meeting agreed with this decision"*. (See: SQ.502.001.0787 at .0793).
- (9.3) Further to paragraph 9.2 immediately above, I wish to state that I hold deep trust and respect for the previous chairman, the Venerable Conrad Patterson (just as those clergy who preceded and proceeded him in that difficult position). He worked tirelessly on behalf of our society. I never experienced any inaction on the various and often onerous tasks required of him.
- (9.4) Reference in these minutes to *"unnecessary publicity"* need to be understood in the context that membership and attendance at CEBS activities had radically (and as it transpired irrevocably) diminished across Australia. Many causative factors may be attributed to explain this. However, I believe that it is broadly accepted within our society that the evil and unforgiveable abuses perpetrated by paedophiles

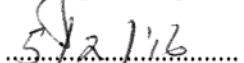
(overwhelmingly clergy as opposed to CEBS leaders) against boys within our society represented a 'death knock' to our society and certainly so in the states of South Australia and Tasmania. At the time of consideration of this apology, our society's very existence was, quite literally, 'on the ropes.' We were doing everything we possibly could to resuscitate it. Despite our collective best efforts, at this juncture it appears inevitable that the National Council will close (and with the good work of so many for so long).

- (9.5) Reference in these minutes to "*small minority of offenders*" was never discussed at national council meetings, in any shape or form, condoning or minimising the evil that had occurred. Just as that subheading refers to "*ANY paedophilic activity*", be very clear that ANY child abuse was always considered as evil and totally abhorrent to all the good that we aspired to achieve and impart.
- (9.6) When setting the agenda for the next national conference (which is to be held hopefully this year and will in all likelihood involve the formal closure of the national council of CEBS), I fully intend to pursue the issue of an apology, holding every confidence that this motion will be unanimously carried.

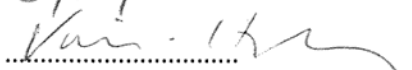
Signed:



Date:



Witness:



Date:

