



We build strong **PEOPLE**
strong **FAMILIES** strong **COMMUNITIES**

28th August 2013

Dear CEOs,

Re: Responding to Disclosures of Past Child Sexual Abuse

As per our communication dated 16th August 2013, the attached paper has been designed to provide advice to YMCA Associations, their staff and volunteers in the event a disclosure of past child sexual abuse is made.

As you will appreciate, this is a highly complex issue and formulating a response that is nationally consistent and a response that is ethically and legally sound will take some time to develop. As an interim support measure we have provided you with a set of principles and guidelines to appropriately respond to a disclosure and a process to promptly engage the support of the National Coordinator.

We are requesting that each Association brief their staff accordingly, including reception staff that may receive an initial phone call from an individual making a disclosure.

The Royal Commission Oversight Committee is also requesting that each Association nominate a senior staff member to act as a designated person to manage disclosures and to act in an ongoing liaison role with the National Coordinator with respect to the Royal Commission. While each disclosure will be different, the process of managing a disclosure may require an ongoing liaison and advocacy role that may, in some circumstances, be more appropriately handled by someone other than the Association CEO. Smaller Associations may, however, require that the CEO undertake this role if they deem this to be appropriate.

If you have any questions in relation to these matters, please contact Jacki Whitwell, National Coordinator, Royal Commission Oversight Committee at YMCA Australia.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Mell'.

Ron Mell
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA AUSTRALIA

c.c.: Association President