



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name Sandra KITCHING
Address Known to the Commission
Date March 2017

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. My full name is Sandra KITCHING, I am 67 years old.
3. I have previously been involved with the Royal Commission.
4. I have been asked to describe the changes I would like to see following the Royal Commission.
5. I would like to see the rights of children to be respected and protected. Children have the right be safe and not abused, they have the right to be kids who laugh and learn and play. They should never feel vulnerable while they are in the care of those people they have been told they can trust.
6. There should be someone that kids can go to, independent from the institution they are being cared by. This should be someone they trust that they can talk to about anything. This person must visit the child at least once every three weeks and these visits should be set up and start the week that the child is placed into care. This person should

Signature: Sandra Kitching

Witness: [Signature]

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receive training on how to identify kids who have been abused and should know how to provide the proper support if kids tell them they are afraid.

7. Children should be educated earlier about behaviour that is sexual abuse. They should be taught at a level that is appropriate for the child's age.
8. We need to make sure that kids know their rights. They should be taught from a very early age who they can talk to if they feel unsafe or abused. If kids communicate their fear they should be comforted and believed. Children being treated as if they are telling lies or making things up can never happen again. When children say that something is wrong, there is something wrong.
9. If kids are placed into kinship care or foster care, the family they are placed with must do a workshop on child sexual abuse. This training must involve the whole family.
10. The government should provide more support and education for struggling and vulnerable families to help ensure that their families stay together. Taking children away hurts our families and our communities.

11. Signed: S. Kitching

12. Date: 27.3.17

13. Witness: [Signature]

14. Date: 27/3/17

Signature: S. Kitching

Witness: [Signature]