

**From:** [Sarah Tetlow](#)  
**To:** [Bert Franzen](#)  
**Cc:** [Ahimsadhara Saraswati](#); [Atma](#); [haribodhananda@gmail.com](mailto:haribodhananda@gmail.com); [Poornamurti \(Phil\) Connor](#); [Suryamitra](#); [Yogasandhan Saraswati](#); [Gurubhatka](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Easter follo up  
**Date:** Monday, 28 April 2014 10:55:09 AM

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Hari Om Bert and all

I have cc'd Yogasandhan and Gurubhatka as I think they should be included from now on and they will be able to answer some of your points. I am away until 6th May but on my return I'm anticipating that Yoga, Gurubhatka and I will sit down to discuss next steps in more detail. In the meantime there are a few actions on the go (see my email of the 22nd).

Thank you, Bert, for offering to take on the role of chairman for the next 2 weeks - it is extremely helpful to us. And I would like to echo your points re Ahimsa's enormous support over the last 2 months.

3. We had a brief look through the points on Easter Monday before we all parted but I expect they've been summarised now. Yoga will be able to tell you if the recording is available.
4. We've started thinking about this (again see my email from 22nd) and when I get back to Mangrove I will continue this process with Yogasandhan and Gurubhatka, but we would appreciate input from you guys. We will need to get agreement from the directors/members of SYA and YAMM for any material actions, e.g. funding future sessions etc. but I think that there is agreement in principle.
5. I think waiting for feedback from the victims is a good idea. Ahimsa is going to send the letter to them later today and that will give us a week or so to get responses back before next steps. Yes, referrals are very useful and I think we need to have them ready (again I'd have to discuss with Mangrove management re payment for this and putting aside a provision for it).
6. Agreed. I would like full handover by mid June, and it could be earlier if we get the new resources up and running (once we've identified them!).

Thanks

Suryamitra

On 28 Apr 2014, at 10:16 am, Bert Franzen <bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au> wrote:

- > Hello Ahimsadhara
- >
- > Thank you for your strength and willingness to commit yourself to a task that has obviously been emotionally taxing - to say the least. You jumped in at a time when you were most needed and helped to drive this to where we are today. It has been a major accomplishment to get it this far in the way we have, so hats off also to all involved.
- >
- > My views are as follows:
- >
- > 1. Re the Chairmanship...If no one else puts their hand up, I'm happy to step in for a two week period. I have a bit of breathing room so this would fit in quite well. From the week beginning the 12th May I'm totally committed to a variety of work related projects so would like to handover to someone else at that time.
- >
- > 2. Letter to Victims: The letter reads very well, providing clarity and a way forward. Thank you for drafting it. I'm happy with it as it is.
- >
- > 3. Output from Easter Sundays breakout groups & Recording. Has someone summarised the salient point that were derived from the individual work group sessions? I've not seen these but believe this output will

determine our path forward. Also would like to listen to Terry's recording. Is this available online somewhere?

>

> 4. Strategic Plan: Terry highlighted in our session on Good Friday morning that the taskforce should determine a strategic plan which is focused on a number of separate but related matters. a) media, b) compensation (if any), future approach; and anything else that Terry feels we need to build into this. Does anyone have a view on this?

>

> 5. Next steps regarding victim support. a) I think further victim / family specific sessions with Terry is an excellent idea. Not sure if forcing them to come back to the "scene of the crime" so to speak is a really good idea but think the victims should determine this. b) I've been in touch with a number of organisations. These include Adults Surviving Child Abuse, 1800 Respect ( a phone based counselling service), CALM (Child abuse listening mediation) and Braveheart. We need to determine if MM wants to refer any of those organisations if required. If so, is the Ashram prepared to pick up the costs relating to these (if applicable...not sure as I haven't gotten to the costs as yet). I've been in touch with Medicare...if a victim has a doctors referral, the first 5 sessions are paid for under medicare. What is everyones view here?

>

> 6. Maintaining Momentum & hand-back to MM: This current phase is where it's easy to loose momentum in this project as the critical point has now been passed. Yet we need to nail this next phase or we'll loose the benefit of the good work achieved so far. I think the way forward here is for MM to reassume control over the next few weeks and gradually take over driving the project long term. As such after the work defined in 1-5 above has been completed the TF should then handover back to the MM management committee or a committee formed there under. The TF can then be disbanded. Accordingly we should start CCing Yogasandhan and Gurubhakta in all future communications so that they are across the primary issues. What are your views regarding a use by date and handover for the TF?

>

> Kind regards

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> Bert

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> Bert Franzen

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>> On 27 Apr 2014, at 9:36 pm, Ahimsadhara Saraswati <ahimsadhara@REDACTED> wrote:

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>> Hari Om,

>> I haven't heard back from Terry yet so I'm attaching my draft letter to victims for you to look at as I think we need to get on with it. As the e-news will be a little longer I think we should get this out asap, letting them know that the e-news is to come.

>>

>> I'm still feeling tired and kind of disconnected from it all so I'm wondering if anyone would like to pick up the role of chair for a while. I think it's a job that can be rotated. I really need to get back to the job Swamiji gave me last year, which is to edit a book. My aim is to have it ready for when I go to India in July and this work has set me back a month. It's a complex edit.

>>

>> FYI, I asked Bert to call Tim Clark just after Easter to help answer Tim's questions about MM's compliance with best practice child protection etc. as Tim was highly skeptical that the ashram is safe and sincere about this. I felt that he needed a straight talker like Bert who knows the issues really well and can talk organisation-speak, which is how Tim likes to relate. He also let him know that according to our enquiries SHISHY was the guardian of children like Tim, not the ashram. Tim says his mother has papers and he will look into those.

This is an important point because he has believed that the ashram was the guardian and therefore must answer to his grievances about the abuse of the rights of children. He has been in contact with Unicef about this and was wanting to bring a Unicef rep to a meeting with us. Bert reported that his phone call went well. I haven't had anymore contact with Tim. Whenever I speak to him it takes a really long time and his rage is really quite intense, although he tries to be reasonable and is definately a well-intentioned person, struggling a great deal with what to do and how to feel. He has registered with the RC, although he hasn't told me about any sexual abuse at the ashram. He was sexually abused outside the ashram when he ran away.

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>> Alecia requested to talk with me via an email sent by her husband. I sent her my numbers. Her husband called my mobile and left a message, although I'd said they should call the ashram at that stage due to no mob reception. I got the message when I left. He sounded friendly and relaxed. I texted him that I was travelling and suggested talking on the weekend but I haven't heard back and haven't taken the step myself. I've spent the weekend settling into my new abode and being with my children.

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>> I also don't have very good internet here as it's tethered to my phone. The download is very slow and documents take ages to open, if they do. There is an email from APV, with a letter attached, but so far it won't open. If I can't get it to open tomorrow I'll forward it.

>>

>> Om, Ahimsa

>> <Easter Sunday follow up.docx>