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GRAHAM SAPWELL

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The Salvation Army

Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters

Office of the Territorial Commander

3rd May 2006

Mr BML

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Sunshine Acres
HERVEY BAY QLD 4855

COPY

Dear Mr BML

I refer to your letter of 13 April 2006 that was not received by my office until 27 April 2006.

I have reviewed this matter and your complaint to The Salvation Army.

In summary, as I understand it, your complaint includes the following allegations:

- physical abuse by a Captain or Major Saunders;
- sexual abuse by a person who arrived initially to repair shoes and look after the "bedwetters' dorm"; and
- acts of physical violence by Captain Colin Leggett whilst you were a resident at Lyndon Lodge.

In response to your allegations, Nevett Ford Lawyers have carried out an independent investigation and interviewed Majors Colin and Norma Leggett, who are now retired. They have both strenuously denied the allegations made by you.

In relation to your time at Box Hill Boys' Home, Nevett Ford Lawyers spoke to a retired officer who was at the Home from 1960 to 1970. This officer described Major Hewittson as a "wonderful kind, friendly man".

In these circumstances, The Salvation Army has decided that in light of the strenuous denials of physical violence by Major Leggett, and the lack of evidence in respect of abuse by a person called "Robert", who was responsible for shoe repairs, that an offer of an ex gratia payment could not be justified.

However, I am prepared to instruct Nevett Ford Lawyers to reconsider the matter if you can provide the contact details of other former residents who can substantiate or support your claim of abuse by a person who arrived as a shoe repairer.

Also, I note that you say in your letter to me that you tried to tell a Stan Exeter. Apparently this was not referred to in your statement dated 8 May 2005 and provided to Nevett Ford Lawyers by Slater & Gordon, your former lawyers. I will make inquiries to see whether there is a record of Stan Exeter.

If you are able to, I suggest that you provide the contact details of the former residents to Philip Brewin of Nevett Ford Lawyers. You are also free to discuss with him any further matters which relate to your claim, and which may assist in bringing closure to your complaint.

Yours sincerely

Ivan Lang
Commissioner
TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

Bcc. Employee Relations Director

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William Booth Founder

Shaw Clifton, General

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