

# WHISTLEBLOWERS ACTION GROUP (QUEENSLAND)

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3 October 2016

The Royal Commission

into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

GPO Box 5283

SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Dear Commissioners

**RE: Public Submission - Consultation Paper September 2016 - RECORDS AND BEST PRACTICE RECORDKEEPING**

1. Established in 1993, Whistleblowers Action Group Qld Inc ("QWAG") is the longest-standing incorporated association of whistleblowers in Australia. Its mission, *inter alia*, is to further the interests and protection of whistleblowers across Australia, but particularly in Queensland, in their efforts to ensure that their public interest disclosures are properly investigated.
2. QWAG stipulates that its members must be able to demonstrate that they have blown the whistle while in employment. As a relevant observation, it is fair to say that the overwhelming majority of its membership since 1993 have all suffered a reprisal in one form or other after making their disclosures. The results of research into whistleblowing completed this year by the Victoria University report that all whistleblowers interviewed by that study have also allegedly suffered reprisals.

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED]

5. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

6. [Redacted]

7. [Redacted]

8. [Redacted]

9. [Redacted]

10. [Redacted]

11. [Redacted]

**Records and Reprisals**

12. QWAG submits that Best Practice Record Keeping includes provisions for reporting and disclosure when officers and authorities act to destroy such records, and provisions for the protection from reprisals of persons who disclose that such records have been destroyed or disposed of by authorities.

[REDACTED]

**The Principle of Establishing Best Practice Recordkeeping**

- 13. QWAG notes in this Consultation Paper, under the heading of "***Additional Matters***", that an attempt has been made to extrapolate beyond what might be called the obvious commonsense and common good of establishing a Best Practice Recordkeeping regime in relevant institutions concerning the welfare of children. At page 46, it says:

*"Good institutional records and recordkeeping practices can be critical to building and maintaining child safe organisations, **promoting institutional accountability and alleviating the impact of child sexual abuse for victims and survivors**. However, it is clear to us that, despite considerable developments in law and policy over the past three decades, the records and recordkeeping practices of many of the institutions within our Terms of Reference require improvement."* (Bold and underlining added)

- 14. [REDACTED]

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<sup>2</sup> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

15. [Redacted]

16. [Redacted]

17. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

18. [Redacted]

i. [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

ii.

[REDACTED]

iii.

[REDACTED]

iv.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

19. [Redacted text block]

20. [Redacted text block]

21. [Redacted text block]

a. [Redacted text block]

b. [Redacted text block]

22. [Redacted text block]

23. [Redacted text block]

24. [Redacted]

25. [Redacted]

Yours sincerely

**G. McMAHON**  
President