

23 February 2018

Our ref: LG/SC/11707

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
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Canberra ACT 2600

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By Email

Dear Committee

THE SALVATION ARMY'S RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE COMMONWEALTH REDRESS SCHEME BILL 2017 AND RELATED BILL

We refer to your email of 21 February 2018 and The Salvation Army's attendance at the Senate Committee's hearing on 16 February 2018 regarding the inquiry into the Commonwealth Redress Scheme Bill 2017.

We note that the Senate Committee made a request that The Salvation Army provide additional material to the Committee for their consideration, being a summary of our interactions with the State governments in relation to the subject matter.

We note that The Salvation Army in Australia currently operates as two entities, being The Salvation Army Eastern Territory (ACT, NSW & QLD) and The Salvation Army Southern Territory (NT, SA, VIC & WA). We confirm that The Salvation Army is in the implementation phase of 'Australia One', which is a project that will merge the two entities together. Given that, until this point, The Salvation Army has operated as two separate entities, we will outline the interactions of each entity with State governments below.

With respect to The Salvation Army Eastern Territory, we note our interactions with the State governments to date are as follows:

- On 31 January 2017, The Salvation Army met with Minister Shannon Fentiman of the Queensland Government along with other faith-based organisations at a roundtable discussion regarding the proposed National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse;
- On 21 March 2017, The Salvation Army was invited to attend a further meeting (via teleconference) with representatives of the Queensland Government regarding the National Redress Scheme;
- In May 2017, The Salvation Army met with representatives of the Queensland Government regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse ('Royal Commission') Redress and Civil Litigation report of September 2015, specifically concerning the Royal Commission's recommendations 89 through to 95;
- On 19 May 2017, The Salvation Army attended a meeting in Melbourne with Minister Porter and representatives of the Department of Social Services' Redress Taskforce in relation to the proposed Commonwealth Redress Scheme;

- In June 2017, The Salvation Army met with Minister Porter and representatives of the Department of Human Services;
- In August 2017, The Salvation Army met with representatives of State and Territory Governments, non-government institutions and representatives of both the Department of Social Services' Redress Taskforce and the Department of Human Services;
- In June 2017, The Salvation Army met with representatives of the New South Wales Attorney-General's Department to discuss the proposed National Redress Scheme;
- In August 2017, The Salvation Army met with representatives of the NSW Attorney-General's Department; and
- Since August 2017, The Salvation Army has received a number of telephone calls from the NSW Attorney-General's Department who sought indications as to whether The Salvation Army intends to opt into the National Redress Scheme or not.

With respect to The Salvation Army Southern Territory, we note our interactions with the State governments to date are as follows:

- In July 2014, The Salvation Army submitted a response to the Victorian Government with respect to the Discussion Paper issued regarding the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisation ('Betrayal of Trust Inquiry') recommendations;
- In August 2014 and August 2015, The Salvation Army met with representatives of the Attorney General's Department on numerous occasions, for high-level discussions regarding the implementation of the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry recommendations;
- Between 2015 and 2017, The Salvation Army met with the Victorian Government on numerous occasions, along with other faith-based organisations, regarding the proposed development of a Victorian redress scheme; and
- We note that the proposed Commonwealth Redress Scheme was not considered in the aforementioned meetings with the Victorian Government until after the announcement of a Commonwealth Redress Scheme (which was announced by Minister Porter on 4 November 2016).

We trust the above is helpful with respect to the question raised by the Committee which was taken on notice at the hearing in Canberra on 16 February 2018.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Luke Geary

Yours faithfully

LUKE GEARY
CONSULTANT