

responses earlier.

As you know, we felt the non-publication order prevented us from providing answers at the time.

I hope the answers below are helpful to you.

Questions and Answers

1) Why didn't the Salvation Army as an organisation report Colin Haggar to police when it became aware of his child sexual abuse of XX in 1989?

The matter was reported to the Police and evidence has been given to the Royal Commission to this effect.

2) Why has the Salvation Army as an organisation failed to report Colin Haggar to police until this day?

The matter was reported to the Police and evidence has been given to the Royal Commission to this effect.

3) Why has the Salvation Army taken Colin Haggar's word that he only abused XX on one occasion?

Once The Salvation Army received a confession from Colin Haggar, the matter was treated with the greatest seriousness and the maximum discipline, of dismissal, was applied.

When the case was handled in 1989, it was viewed that no further investigation was needed as a confession had already been received.

Such matters are treated differently today.

4) Why has the Salvation Army's Commissioner James Condon taken Colin Haggar's word that the XX family invited Colin Haggar and Kerry around for dinner following disclosure, and 'forgave' Colin for the abuse?

That is not the case. Commissioner Condon was not responsible at the time for handling the Colin Haggar matter, he was a relatively junior officer who was not in any leadership capacity at the time.

5) Why did Commissioner James Condon make no notes, personal or private, of his alleged accompaniment of Colin Haggar to confess his sexual abuse to police in 1990?

Commissioner Condon certainly remembers accompanying Colin Haggar to the police station. He was accompanying Mr Haggar to the police station as a support person in a pastoral context, not in any formal legal capacity.

6) Why did the Salvation Army support Colin Haggar's successful Working With Children Check in 2002?

The 2002 Working With Children Check was a process undertaken with all Officers throughout The Salvation Army. It was expected that Mr Haggar would not obtain a certificate at the time because he has never been in child related work since his dismissal for the subject offence back in 1990. His seeking of a Working With Children Check was contrary to his role at that time and ever since the offence in 1990.

7) Why did the Salvation Army fail to tell its own Salvationists about Colin Haggar's sexual abuse of a child when he was sent to work with children at John Irwin Lodge and at Samaritan Services?

Again, our legal advice, which remains unchanged from when this matter was raised, was we acted correctly at all times. We were guided by external professional advice on how to deal with such matters.

We explained to the RC that he was appointed to Samaritan Services to a management role, not to work with children. Further, we explained that we did not originally realise the restructuring of homeless persons work meant that the women and children centre had come under the whole Samaritan Services.

The very day that Commissioner Condon had this pointed out to him, he gave instructions that Colin not be involved in

that work at all.

The evidence given at the RC confirmed that Colin Haggar was never at Samaritan Services unsupervised. Since 2007 and certainly since the start of the RC, our internal processes have been strengthened. For example, international HQ has also sent out new directives as a result of the Royal Commission in ways in which to deal with sex offenders, that are retrospective.

8) What does the Salvation Army say to calls by victims for Commissioner James Condon to step down?

Commissioner Condon has been supportive of the Royal Commission from its initial announcement in 2013 and throughout Case Studies 5 and 10. Commissioner Condon continues to provide leadership to The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory and, with a high level of internal support, he will continue to lead The Salvation Army into the future.

9) Is the Salvation Army concerned that by failing to report a serious crime, it could lose its tax deductible status?

The Salvation Army is fully aware of the serious nature of failing to report a crime.

The Salvation Army takes reporting of all crimes very seriously and would not only be concerned about any jeopardy to its tax deductible status but more importantly, to the risk to the community of having a perpetrator in the community go unnoticed and not prosecuted.

The Salvation Army cooperates with law enforcement authorities throughout the country on a daily basis, assisting them in doing their work throughout the community and in dealing with the effects of crime for people who are victims.

10) What does the Salvation Army say to statements by victims that by failing to report Colin Haggar and CD to police that it is not a child safe organisation?

Again, our legal advice, which remains unchanged from when this matter was raised, was we acted correctly at all times. We were guided by external professional advice on how to deal with such matters. Whilst in the past we did have individuals who abused children, today we have strong, best-practice policies in place.

The Salvation Army is certified by the NSW Children's Guardian to run an out of home care service, Young Hope, which required a rigorous assessment of our child protection policies presently in place. We continue to be certified for that purpose and are committed to remaining a safe, protecting environment for children and other vulnerable persons.

11) What does the Salvation Army say to claims that it has sheltered paedophiles from prosecution?

Past police investigations have found those claims not to be true. Whilst in the past we did have individuals who abused children, today we have strong, best-practice policies in place. The Salvation Army would never get in the way of the Police being able to do their job to protect society.

12) How many volunteers and committee members have declined to rejoin the Red Shield Appeal this year?

We don't keep numbers on the amount of people declining to join.

13) Has The Salvation Army ever received any allegations of child sexual abuse perpetrated by CD?

Yes

14) If so, when were these received?

Late 2013 / early 2014. Beyond that, it should be said that all allegations concerning CD have been reported to the Police, who are presently investigating. We are concerned not to prejudice those investigations and suggest that any questions be directed to the Police.

Detective Sergeant, Paul Grace (Phone: 02 9265 4100)

Senior Constable Robert Iglesias (Phone: 02 9265 4100)

15) How many alleged victims were there?

Again, all allegations have been reported to the Police, who are presently investigating. We are concerned not to prejudice those investigations and suggest that any questions be directed to the Police.

16) What action has The Salvation Army taken upon receipt of these allegations if any such allegations have been received?

Allegations concerning CD were brought before the Officers Review Board after an investigation was undertaken by The Salvation Army. His case was considered and he was dismissed from Officership and the matter was referred to the Police.

17) Has The Salvation Army at any time ever restricted CD access to children? If so, when and what were the restrictions?

CD was suspended on February 21, 2014 pending an investigation into the allegations of abuse.

Allegations concerning CD were brought before the Officers Review Board after an investigation was undertaken by The Salvation Army. His case was considered and he was dismissed from Officership and the matter was referred to the Police.

Detective Sergeant, Paul Grace (Phone: 02 9265 4100)

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18) How many new victims have come forward with complaints of abuse to the Salvation Army since the first Royal Commission hearing into the TSA in January 2014?

19 new cases

19) How many victims whose claims were already known to the TSA have come forward for a reassessment of their claim?

10

20) Commissioner James Condon at the Royal Commission promised extra resources to handle complaints of abuse from victims – what extra resources have been provided?

New staff were hired in a variety of roles, and the use of external contracted investigators through a large investigations firm have been used extensively to ensure all current matters have been able to be dealt with immediately and without any delay.

The number of positions was increased earlier in 2014 following a review of capacity and assessment of workload.

21) What supporting documents are there for the assertion that victims' compensation is not paid from any donated funds such as the Red Shield Appeal?

Our accounts are audited by an external firm and these are completely accessible to the public.

End

Kind regards,

Bruce

Major Bruce Harmer

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