



Tuesday, 21st May 2014

Dear Ms Dingle

Thank you for your enquiry.

As you are aware the Royal Commission has completed two public hearings concerning The Salvation Army (Eastern Territory). This has been a difficult process for all concerned, most of all for the survivors who have recounted allegations of abuse.

In the past few weeks and indeed days, we have received the submissions of Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission which addresses the evidence which was presented in detail and seeks certain findings. Those submissions are subject to a non-publication order. The Salvation Army is preparing its submissions in reply.

The Salvation Army's submissions are also subject to a non-publication order. The Royal Commission will conduct one further day of public hearings on 23 June 2014 at which we anticipate the submissions may be released to the public, subject to any orders of the Royal Commission.

The questions you have asked touch, directly and indirectly, on matters which are currently the subject of submissions before the Royal Commission. Mindful of the non-publication orders applying to the submissions, it would not be appropriate to respond to questions at this time.

The Salvation Army will be pleased to provide a copy of its submissions when, and subject to, any orders made by the Royal Commission following the hearing on 23 June 2014.

I can assure you that The Salvation Army takes all claims and allegations of child sexual abuse very seriously and has in place processes to address such allegations.

The Salvation Army has welcomed the Royal Commission's inquiry into its practices and has said at the public hearings that it wishes to work with the Royal Commission to identify ways in which its processes and assistance to survivors could be improved.

The Salvation Army is a child safe organisation and treats the safety of children and the vulnerable as our highest priority.

The Salvation Army also gives its assurance that victims' compensation is not paid from any donated funds such as the Red Shield Appeal.

Thank you again for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Harmer (Major)

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