

## Submission on the Royal Commission Consultation Paper

Concerning 'the Royal Commission seeking submissions on the issues raised in the consultation paper and views on suggested best practice principles, matters to be canvassed in the complaint handling policy and how those matters might be addressed' we submit the following suggestions, using the relevant paragraphs and adding our submission.

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"... we seek submissions about the value of independent oversight mechanisms such as reportable conduct schemes... We also seek submissions about what features an independent oversight scheme should include, and whose conduct should be subject to its oversight".

*In the interests of children throughout Australia we submit that it would be advisable to establish reportable conduct schemes in all states, preferably incorporated into the Commission for Children and Young People role, as three states (QLD, NSW, Victoria) have these commissions and the Ombudsman office appears to be limited in this role, except in NSW. This would save on costs in establishing separate Ombudsman offices and go a long way to ensure the protection and safety of children. The best practice principles listed in this paper need to form the basis for this role.*

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We also welcome submissions on how to improve institutions' access to advice and support when responding to complaints of child sexual abuse, especially for smaller institutions.

*Regarding improving access to advice and support we suggest that smaller institutions be encouraged/advised to partner with or liaise with larger organisations of a similar culture for advice, consultation and supervision when managing complaints. For example parishes might liaise with Church Education Offices; small Aboriginal agencies might liaise with Aboriginal medical or health bodies provided they have clear policies and practise them. Departments of Child Protection in each state could be a valuable resource for smaller agencies. To accommodate this it would be useful for DCP to have an education resource role for a dedicated worker or time allocation for this work.*

*The paper fails to explore the issue of internal family sexual abuse. We suggest a strong campaign of education and awareness raising, similar to that now taking place on Domestic Violence, be undertaken throughout Australia, for children, parents and others to become more aware of what is appropriate/inappropriate behaviour towards children.*

*I would also hope there would be much training and support for carers working with children in OOHC and this needs to be very evident in the paper details – not sure that it is.*