

August 12, 2013

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
GPO Box 5283
Sydney NSW 2001

Justice Peter McClellan AM
Chair of the Commission

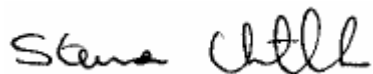
RE: ISSUES PAPER 1 – WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Dear Commissioner,

JW Survivors requests that they be able to lodge their submission with the Royal Commission in relation to the Working With Children Check once the final report for the Victorian *Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Organisations* is presented to Parliament.

By way of background: In January 2011 the *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry* was launched to investigate Victoria's child protection system. On June 8, 2011, Mr Steven Unthank appeared before the Inquiry to present a verbal submission in relation to the Working With Children Check. Based on his submission, the Terms of Reference to the current Victorian *Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Organisations*, in section 9, "Background and Context", made recommendations that the Family and Community Development Committee investigate the Working With Children Check and the *Working with Children Act 2005*, with specific reference to religious organisations.

Subsequently, JW Survivors were extensively involved in a number of comprehensive written submissions to the Victorian *Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Organisations* in relation to the Working With Children Check and the associated laws. Further, on February 18, 2013, Mr Steven Unthank appeared in Parliament before the Family and Community Development Committee to provide verbal evidence in relation to the systemic failure of the Working With Children Check within the State of Victoria. This Inquiry is yet to present its final report to Parliament and comment of the Working with Children Check and related submissions.



Steven Unthank
JW SURVIVORS

JW Survivors is a volunteer not-for-profit community based victim advocacy group for survivors of the Church of Jehovah's Witnesses within Australia.

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