

# **Experiences of police and prosecution responses**

## **Issues Paper 8**

Submission to Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child  
Sexual Abuse, Issues Paper 8: Experiences of Police and Prosecution  
Responses

**12 June 2015**

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## WHO WE ARE

The Australian Lawyers Alliance is a national association of lawyers, academics and other professionals dedicated to protecting and promoting justice, freedom and the rights of the individual.

We estimate that our 1,500 members represent up to 200,000 people each year in Australia. We promote access to justice and equality before the law for all individuals regardless of their wealth, position, gender, age, race or religious belief.

The Australian Lawyers Alliance started in 1994 as the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association, when a small group of personal injury lawyers decided to pool their knowledge and resources to secure better outcomes for their clients – victims of negligence.

We are represented in every state and territory in Australia. More information about us is available on our website.<sup>1</sup>



## INTRODUCTION

The Australian Lawyers Alliance welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, regarding *Issues Paper 8: Experiences of police and prosecution responses*.

We wish to highlight the work of the NSW Police Integrity Commission in this area.

## OPERATION PROTEA

We note that the NSW Police Integrity Commission has recently conducted an inquiry to investigate ‘whether there was any police misconduct involved in the participation of any New South Wales Police Force (“NSWPF”) officer in:

1. the Catholic Church Professional Standards Resource Group between 1998 and 2005; and
2. in any agreement, protocol or Memorandum of Understanding (whether or not formally entered into) between the NSWPF and the Catholic Church concerning the handling of complaints of abuse committed by Catholic Church personnel or employees.’<sup>2</sup>

The report concerning Operation Protea has not yet been released.

Dr Andrew Morrison SC was granted limited leave to appear as a representative of the Australian Lawyers Alliance.

At the close of the Operation Protea hearing, the Commissioner made a general non-publication order over all submissions received by the Commission in Operation Protea (Transcript, p153:27 – 46).

The subject matter regarding Operation Protea is clearly of direct relevance to the Royal Commission who may wish to approach PIC for access to submissions.

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Australian Lawyers Alliance (2012) <[www.lawyersalliance.com.au](http://www.lawyersalliance.com.au)>

<sup>2</sup> NSW Police Integrity Commission, Past Hearings and Transcripts, <https://www.pic.nsw.gov.au/PastHearings.aspx>