



Tuesday, 21 January 2014

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army. We value the relationship we have with you and we write this letter in our efforts to maintain the integrity and honesty of that relationship. We believe it is important to make you aware that The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will be holding a public hearing into The Salvation Army commencing 28th of January 2014.

Sadly, The Salvation Army's boys homes prior to the late 1970s badly lacked adequate policies and staff training, and were highly regimented and at times quite brutal. This is a cause of great shame to us. In such environments sexual abuse did sometimes happen, with terrible consequences for the boys affected. The Salvation Army continues to look very hard at how we failed boys during those years.

As the Royal Commission does its work, we understand that you may have questions about The Salvation Army's response to child sexual abuse. We encourage anyone with questions or concerns about the hearings to contact us directly either through your donor liaison contact or by sending an email to [communications@aue.salvationarmy.org](mailto:communications@aue.salvationarmy.org)

Here are some key pieces of information that may help answer some of your questions:

- The Salvation Army openly admits to serious past failures, and apologises to all who were harmed.
- The Salvation Army today is responding to reports of past abuse with compassion and honesty.
- The Salvation Army payments to victims do not come from your donations or the Red Shield Appeal.
- The Salvation Army encourages any person who was abused in any way to contact our Professional Standards Office on (02) 9266 9781.
- Today's Salvation Army has strong policies in place to protect children and it ensures those policies reflect that the protection of children is of the most serious of our obligations.

There is no doubt that people will be distressed by some of the tragic accounts which will be given.

We have been at all times transparently honest with the Commission, and we intend to remain transparent with you. Nothing is being concealed or held back.

There may also be future hearings which look into the way we provide restorative justice and assistance to people who report past abuse.

Our hope is that this process will bring healing for those who suffered while in our care and that we will act justly and compassionately towards them, being fair to all. We thank you for your continued support and remain available should you wish to discuss any of this further.

The media statement regarding this announcement can be viewed at <http://salvos.org.au/about-us/media-centre/documents/20131206TSARoyalCommission.pdf>

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*William Booth, Founder | André Cox, General*