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7 July 2015

Our Ref.: MGB:WT:072015

Dr. Monica Applewhite
Email: monicaapplewhite@yahoo.com

Dear Dr Applewhite

**Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse ("Commission")
Expert – Dr Monica Applewhite**

I have been instructed by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd (referred to in this letter as "WTA") to assist in its preparation for the Commission commencing its Public Hearing on 27 July 2015.

I refer to your previous correspondence with WTA.

The purpose of this letter is to request you to provide an expert report to assist the Commission in relation to its inquiry into the institutional response of "*Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd*" to child sexual abuse, which is Case Study 29.

We set out below the background to this matter, together with information relevant to your report and the specific matters that we would like you to address.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The terms of Reference for the Royal Commission are found at <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au>. The website also sets out the background to the establishment of the Commission and the matters it has inquired into to date.
- 1.2 The scope and purpose (also set out on the Commission's website) of the public hearing in Case Study 29 is to inquire into the following:
 - 1 The experience of survivors of child sexual abuse within the Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Australia.
 - 2 The responses of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd to allegations, reports or complaints of child sexual abuse within the Church.
 - 3 The systems, policies and procedures in place within the Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd for raising and responding to allegations of or concerns about child sexual abuse within the Church.
 - 4 The systems, policies and procedures in place within the Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd to prevent child sexual abuse within the Church.

2. Independent expert

- 2.1 You are asked to provide an independent report. The purpose of the report is to provide assistance to the Commission.
- 2.2 WTA has previously written to the Commission and informed it that you will be engaged to provide an expert report that, in the opinion of WTA, will assist the Commission in its deliberations. WTA has also informed the Commission that you will refer to and agree to be bound by the Expert Witness Code of Conduct ("Code"). We attach a copy and, on the assumption it is acceptable to you, ask that you refer to the Code in your report and attach it as an Annexure to your report.
- 2.3 As you will see the Code is directed to Court proceedings rather than a Royal Commission. Nevertheless, we draw your attention to, in particular, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Code. We will discuss with you how the matters referred to in paras 2.1 and 2.2 should be modified for the purposes of your report.
- 2.4 It may be, however, that the Commission will provide a different Code of Conduct, in which case we will send you a copy for your consideration and agreement.

3. Documents

- 3.1 WTA has provided a substantial number of documents to the Commission. These documents have been put onto a database (known as Ringtail) and each document page has been given an identifier in the following format (**WAT.####.###.####**, eg 0001.0001.0001 may be a document 15 pages long, thus the last page will be 0001.0001.0015).
- 3.2 I understand that you have been provided with most of these documents without the Ringtail references as follows on 14 June 2015.
- 3.3 On 14 June 2015 by email, you were also provided with the following
- (a) Document entitled: "References for Dr Applewhite"
 - (b) Selected material quoted in (a):
 - (i) 2012-10-01 Letter to all bodies of elders Child abuse
 - (ii) 2002-08-28 Letter to all congregations in Australia
 - (iii) *Shepherd the Flock of God* ks10 pages 18-20
 - (iv) *Shepherd the Flock of God* ks10 pages 43-44
 - (v) *Shepherd the Flock of God* ks 10 pages 72-73
 - (vi) *Shepherd the Flock of God* ks 10 pages 131-132
 - (vii) *The Watchtower*, August 8, 2005, When Is There a Basis for Taking Offence
 - (viii) 2007-07-31 Letter to Angela Frizzell
 - (ix) *Awake!*, October 8, 1993, If Your Child Is Abused
 - (x) *Awake!*, October 8, 1991, A Time To Heal
 - (xi) *Awake!*, January 22, 1985, If the Worst Should Happen
 - (xii) *Our Kingdom Ministry*, November 2002
- 3.4 On 7 July 2015 you were sent a complete copy of *Shepherd of the Flock* ks 10 (with updated notations) (**WAT.0003.001.0003**).
- 3.5 We further understand that you have access to substantial material from the Jehovah's Witnesses' website (www.jw.org) and, possibly, other sources.
- 3.6 When you refer to a document in your report please insert, where possible, the WAT reference. We understand that there will be instances where you will not be able to do this – we will insert the reference for you.
- 3.7 Please attach a list of **all** documents to which you refer in your report.

3.8 In the unlikely event that you refer to a document that has not been provided to the Commission, we will inform the Commission of that fact and provide it to the Commission a copy.

4. Expertise

4.1 Although a copy of your Curriculum Vitae has been provided to the Commission, could you please ensure that you include in your report an introductory summary of your qualifications, expertise and experience. It is of particular importance that your expertise and experience is directed to the matters that are set out in both the Commission's Terms of Reference and the matters that are the subject of the Public Hearing for Case Study 29.

4.2 Please attach your most recent CV to your report.

5. Questions

5.1 We ask for your expert opinion on the following matters.

5.2 Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the matters being inquired into in Case Study 29, being:

- 3 The systems, policies and procedures in place within the Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd for raising and responding to allegations of or concerns about child sexual abuse within the Church.
- 4 The systems, policies and procedures in place within the Jehovah's Witnesses Church and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Australia Ltd to prevent child sexual abuse within the Church.

5.3 In relation to these matters we ask that you consider and comment on, if it is within your knowledge and expertise, the following matters:

- (a) the organisational structure of the Jehovah's Witnesses both internationally and nationally;
- (b) whether or not, in your view, there is uniformity of approach to the matters raised by paragraphs 3 and 4 of in Case Study 29, by WTA and internationally. Please state your reasons for your conclusions;
- (c) if, in your opinion, the organisational structure differs from other religious organisations and what, if any, impact that has on your response to issues 3 and 4.

5.4 In addressing paragraphs 3 and 4 and based on your review of the Jehovah's Witnesses we also ask you to have particular regard to the policies, systems and procedures, that exist within Jehovah's Witnesses:

- (a) that respond to allegations of or complaints of child sexual abuse;
- (b) that record allegations of child sexual abuse;
- (c) that prevent child sexual abuse.

and, to the extent it is within your expertise, how such policies, systems and procedures differ from other religious organisations.

5.5 Please let me know if you require any clarification of these instructions.

5.6 These instructions should be annexed to your report.

Yours sincerely
Milton Bray & Associates

Milton G Bray

Milton Bray, Solicitor