



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

16 July 2015

Mr Milton Bray  
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By email: [milton.bray@mbassociates.com.au](mailto:milton.bray@mbassociates.com.au)

Dear Mr Bray

**Royal Commission Case Study 29**

1. We refer to the forthcoming public hearing of Case Study 29, and to documents produced by your client pursuant to summonses S-NSW-391 and S-NSW-462 issued by the Royal Commission on 4 February 2015 and 28 February 2015 respectively. Those documents include, amongst other things, some 1000 files relating to complaints or allegations of child sexual abuse against members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Australia (**Case Files**).
2. We have conducted an analysis of the information contained in the Case Files and have prepared a summary of the outcomes recorded as a result of that analysis (**Analysis Summary**). The Analysis Summary is annexed at Attachment A.
3. Counsel Assisting proposes to put some of the figures recorded in the Analysis Summary to witnesses from your client during the public hearing. We ask that your client consider the enclosed Analysis Summary and advise us of any respect in which the Analysis Summary is inaccurate or incomplete by **5pm on Monday 20 July 2015**.
4. In order to assist your client in its consideration of the Analysis Summary, we will separately provide you with an electronic spreadsheet recording the data we have extracted from the Case Files. The Analysis Summary is based on that data.
5. Please do not hesitate to contact either me or Joanna Blair on 02 8284 2448 if you would like to discuss any aspect of this matter.

Yours sincerely

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## Attachment A

### SUMMARY OF WATCHTOWER AUSTRALIA CASE FILE ANALYSIS

In response to summons S-NSW-391 issued by the Royal Commission on 4 February 2015, the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of Australia Ltd (**Watchtower Australia**) produced documents that include case files held by Watchtower Australia which relate to complaints or allegations of child sexual abuse against members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Australia (**Case Files**).

The Royal Commission's analysis of documents contained in the Case Files has produced the following outcomes:<sup>1</sup>

#### **Total number of alleged perpetrators**

1. Since 1950, Watchtower Australia has recorded in Case Files allegations, reports or complaints of child sexual abuse against 1006 members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Australia (the **alleged perpetrators**).

#### **State/Territory total number of alleged perpetrators**

2. By reference to State or Territory of first report or allegation, the Case Files record the following numbers of allegations of child sexual abuse:
  - i) Australian Capital Territory – 10 Case Files.
  - ii) New South Wales – 270 Case Files.
  - iii) Northern Territory – 10 Case Files.
  - iv) Queensland – 306 Case Files.
  - v) South Australia – 69 Case Files.
  - vi) Tasmania – 24 Case Files.
  - vii) Victoria – 141 Case Files.
  - viii) Western Australia – 137 Case Files.
  - ix) Unclear – 39 Case Files.

#### **Familial vs Non-Familial**

3. 326 of the Case Files record allegations of non-familial child sexual abuse.
4. 564 of the Case Files record allegations of familial child sexual abuse.
5. 89 of the Case Files record allegations of both non-familial and familial child sexual abuse.

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<sup>1</sup> In conducting the analysis of Case Files produced by Watchtower Australia, the Royal Commission has only recorded data where it is positively evidenced by material within a Case File. Where material within a Case File did not provide evidence of the data sought by the Royal Commission, it has been recorded as "unclear", and has not been included in the above analysis.

**Role of alleged perpetrator in the Church**

6. 135 alleged perpetrators were elders or ministerial servants at the time of the first alleged incident of abuse.
7. 87 alleged perpetrators were not members of the Jehovah's Witnesses Church at the time of the first alleged incident of abuse.

**Age of alleged victims**

8. 712 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse of victims under the age of 15.
9. 421 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse of victims under the age of 10.
10. 170 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse of victims under the age of 5.

**Sex of victim**

11. 754 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse in relation to a female victim.
12. 122 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse in relation to a male victim.
13. 86 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse in relation to both female and male victims.

**Number of victims**

14. 456 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse in relation to two or more victims.
15. 90 alleged perpetrators were the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse in relation to five or more victims.

**Operation of Two-Witness Rule and Confessions**

16. Application of the two-witness rule prevented 125 allegations of child sexual abuse from proceeding to a judicial committee.
17. 579 alleged perpetrators confessed to having committed child sexual abuse.

**Progress of matter to judicial committee**

18. 563 alleged perpetrators were the subject of a judicial committee hearing by congregational elders.

**Reproval**

- 19. 190 alleged perpetrators were reprovved in relation to an allegation of child sexual abuse.
- 20. 11 alleged perpetrators were reprovved on more than one occasion in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse.

**Disfellowshipping**

- 21. 401 alleged perpetrators were disfellowshipped in relation to an allegation of child sexual abuse.
- 22. 78 alleged perpetrators were disfellowshipped on more than one occasion in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse.

**Reinstatement**

- 23. Of 401 alleged perpetrators disfellowshipped in relation to an allegation of child sexual abuse (see [21] above), 230 were later reinstated.
- 24. 35 alleged perpetrators who were disfellowshipped on more than one occasion in relation to allegations of child sexual abuse were reinstated on more than one occasion.

**Appointment as Elder or Ministerial Servant**

- 25. 29 alleged perpetrators were appointed as an elder or ministerial servant after having been the subject of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

**Deletion as Elder or Ministerial Servant**

- 26. 128 alleged perpetrators were deleted as an elder or ministerial servant as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse.
- 27. Of 128 alleged perpetrators deleted as an elder or ministerial servant as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse (see [26] above), 17 were later reappointed as an elder or ministerial servant.

**Convictions**

- 28. 161 alleged perpetrators have been convicted of a child sexual abuse offence.

**Reporting to secular authorities by the Church and/or Watchtower Australia**

- 29. We identified no record in the Case Files of the JW Church or Watchtower Australia having reported any allegation of child sexual abuse in relation to any of the 1006 alleged perpetrators to the police or other secular authority.