



17 May 2016

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

BY HAND

To Mr Steven Grainger

I write to you in my capacity as Deputy Secretary, of the Department of Family and Community Services, to sincerely and unreservedly apologise, for the physical, sexual and emotional abuse you suffered as a child and young person.

I acknowledge that in bringing this claim and speaking out about abuse you have shown tremendous courage and personal strength.

On behalf of the Department and the State of New South Wales I acknowledge your personal and painful experiences and your courage in sharing them – In doing this you have helped to inform our understanding of the tragic effects of childhood abuse, and have contributed to the prevention of abuse of other children and young people.

I acknowledge that you were sent to Mittagong Training School for Boys in March 1967, August 1968, November 1969 and again in April 1971 where you suffered heinous and frequent physical and sexual abuse at the hands of staff and others.

I acknowledge that you were then transferred to Daruk Boys' Training School on March 1972, where you were again sexually abused by staff members.

I acknowledge that you were then transferred to Institution for Boys, Tamworth, in October 1973, where you were again subjected to multiple acts of physical and sexual abuse by staff members.

The abuse you suffered is reprehensible. The people who abused you, and the people who did not act to protect you from this abuse, breached your trust in them. These acts should never have occurred, and action should have been taken to protect you. I sincerely regret the abuse, pain and suffering caused to you.

I am also greatly saddened to hear about the suffering you endured in these institutions and the consequences of that abuse for your adult life. I deeply regret that as a child and a young person you did not experience the care and protection to which you were unquestionably entitled.

I understand that you have expressed your despair at your memories of the dark times in your life, and you have been deprived of the opportunity for your life to have unfolded differently. On behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services and the NSW Government, I again apologise, sincerely and unreservedly, for the pain and suffering that you experienced over the course of your lifetime, and that you continue to experience today.

The Department of Family and Community Services is committed to protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect. The health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our care is the primary focus for the Department. Since your time at the above institutions, the NSW Government's model of disciplinary institutions has significantly changed and a range of initiatives and policies have been implemented to try to ensure that such abuse does not ever happen again.

Department of Family and Community Services
Postal address: Locked Bag 2028, Ashfield NSW 2131
W www.facs.nsw.gov.au | E
T (02) 9716 2222 | TTY (02) 8270 2167 | ABN 80 597 369 676

If you consider that at any time you might benefit from counselling, the NSW State Government Victims Support Scheme offers a free counselling service. The service can be contacted as follows:

By telephone freecall number: 1800 633 063

In person: Level 1, Justice Precinct Offices 160 Marsden Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150 between 8am and 6pm, Monday to
Friday (excluding public holidays)

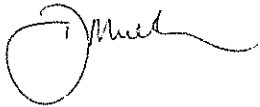
By email: vs@justice.nsw.gov.au

By facsimile: (02) 8688 9632

By post: Commissioner of Victims Rights
Victims Services
Locked Bag 5118
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Should you wish to discuss this letter either by telephone or in person, you are most welcome to contact me at your convenience and I will make myself available. My contact details are (02) 9716 2992.

Yours sincerely



Deidre Mulkerin
Deputy Secretary