



**Crown
Solicitor's
Office**

Sensitive: Legal

Your Ref:

My Ref: D01 201700177

Bruce Cantrill (Special Counsel) **Tel:** (02) 9224-5128

Fax: (02) 9224-5122

bruce.cantrill@csso.nsw.gov.au

22 September 2017

Mr Peter Karp
Karp O'Neill Lawyers
PO Box 112
MACQUARIE PARK NSW 1670

By Express Post

Dear Mr Karp

**State of NSW & Ors ats Raymond Leary
Supreme Court Proceedings No. 2017/15686**

Please find **enclosed** Letter of Apology provided on behalf of the State of NSW and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Cantrill on (02) 9224-5128 if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Cantrill
Special Counsel
for Crown Solicitor

Encl.





31 August 2017

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr Raymond Leary,

This letter is written by me in my capacity as the Deputy Secretary, Northern Cluster, within the Department of Family and Community Services and on behalf of the NSW State Government to apologise and express my sincere regret for the sexual, physical and psychological abuse you suffered during the time that you were in the State's care.

Thank you for sharing your story with me and providing me with a copy of your book on 15 August 2017.

On behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Education, South East Sydney Local Health District, and the State of New South Wales, I acknowledge your personal and painful experiences and your courage in sharing them. By sharing your story, 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 note that you were placed in a number of institutions from 21 November 1969 to 5 November 1976. I was saddened to read about the sexual abuse that you suffered whilst a student at Redfern Public School. I was also saddened to read about the sexual, physical and psychological abuse that you suffered when you were placed at Yasmarr Shelter, Royleston Depot, Werrington Park State Facility and Daruk Training School. I was also distressed to read about how you were sexually abused by a social worker at Prince of Wales Hospital and Prince Henry Hospital.

I acknowledge that the abuse you have described has had a profound impact on your life, including your physical and mental health, your ability to read and write, and your relationship with your family and friends. I also acknowledge the distress that you would have had to endure in recounting the painful memories and experiences. I note that despite these adversities, you are determined to help victims of abuse. I congratulate you on the valuable work you are doing with Journey Home.

The Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Education, South East Sydney Local Health District, and the State of New South Wales are committed to

protecting children and young people from abuse and neglect. The health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in State care is the primary focus for the Departments. Since your time in care, the NSW Government's model of out-of-home care has significantly changed and a range of initiatives and policies have been implemented to ensure that such abuse does not ever happen again.

I hope that you will be able to move forward with your life. If you consider that at any time you might benefit from further counselling, the NSW State Government Victims Support Scheme offers a free counselling service. The service can be contacted as follows:

Telephone freecall number: 1800 633 063

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

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

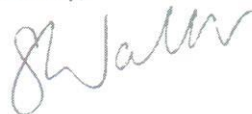
By facsimile: (02) 8688 9632

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

NSW Health also has a state-wide network of Sexual Assault Services that provide free face-to-face specialist trauma counselling and some group work to children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual assault, including adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. There can be some variation in capacity of these services depending on the location of the service that is near to you, but the Sexual Assault Service will be able to discuss options with you. To find the location and phone number of your local NSW Health Sexual Assault Service visit the website www.health.nsw.gov.au/sexualassault/Pages/default.aspx.

Should you wish to discuss this letter, you are most welcome to contact me at your convenience and I will make myself available.

Yours sincerely,



Simone Walker
Deputy Secretary
Northern Cluster