



VICTORIA POLICE

Graham Ashton AM
Chief Commissioner of Police

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Ms Leonie Sheedy
Chief Executive Officer
Care Leavers Australasia Network
PO Box 164
Georges Hall NSW 2198

Dear Ms Sheedy

Over a period of time, the Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) has requested an apology from Police Commissioners to those care leavers who historically attempted to report sexual abuse in children's homes.

I write on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Police Commissioners' Forum (ANZPCF), having discussed this matter at our recent meeting. The ANZPCF comprises Police Commissioners from each state and territory across Australia, and the New Zealand Police Commissioner.

The ANZPCF have asked me to convey their sincere empathy about the concerns CLAN have raised. All Police Commissioners consider the safety and wellbeing of children to be of utmost importance, and we recognise the long lasting impact of abuse on the most vulnerable in our communities. We are committed to addressing child abuse in all forms, as well as contributing to preventive efforts alongside our partner agencies.

As you would be aware, Australian jurisdictions are currently awaiting the outcomes of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA), which will consider reporting and response practices. We believe we would be best placed to consider your request for an apology after the conclusion of the Royal Commission, when the findings and recommendations are known. The need for, and context and form of any apology, can then be considered comprehensively.

We encourage victims to bring any new evidence of crime by any person to police for investigation.

Our decision to await the outcomes of the RCIRCSA does not diminish our view that the issues raised by CLAN are of significant concern. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact my Chief of Staff, Commander Brett Curran, on (03) 9247 6859.

Yours sincerely

Graham Ashton AM
Chief Commissioner
13 / 1 / 2017