

# Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

An alliance of the CLC, NLC, CAALAS, NAAJA and AMSANT

Ms Kirsty Windeyer  
Official Secretary  
Royal Commission into the Abuse of  
Children in Detention in the Northern Territory

Via e-mail to: [Kirsty.windeyer@ag.gov.au](mailto:Kirsty.windeyer@ag.gov.au)

23 August 2016

Dear Kirsty,

## **RE: Directions hearing for Royal Commission into the abuse of children in Detention in the Northern Territory**

Thank you for meeting with APONT to discuss the Royal Commission. As we explained, APONT and its members believe this Commission is a critical opportunity for a proper examination of issues of juvenile detention, and will involve very significant issues for policy and law reform in this area.

APONT is very supportive of the Commission and wants to have as active a role as possible in the Commission's processes.

We understand from the Commissioners that they will be holding a directions hearing or an opening hearing on 6 September 2016.

Can you confirm for us whether the Commission will be having a hearing on 6 September 2016, and if so, can you advise:

- a) would that hearing go for longer than one day;
- b) what will that hearing address;
- c) will the Commission be expecting individuals and organisation with an interest in appearing the Commission to seek leave to appear in the Commission on that occasion; and
- d) will the Commission be expecting to receive oral submissions or take evidence that day, in addition to making an opening statement.

We would appreciate it if you could let us know the Commission's thinking on these issues, so that APONT can plan accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



John Paterson  
CEO  
on behalf of APO NT:

David Ross Director CLC	Priscilla Collins CEO NAAJA	John Paterson CEO AMSANT	Eileen Van Iersal CEO CAALAS	Joe Morrison CEO NLC
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