



## Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory

---

29 August 2016

Mr John Paterson  
CEO  
Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

Via email: [john.paterson@amsant.org.au](mailto:john.paterson@amsant.org.au)

Dear Mr Paterson

**RE: Directions hearing for Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory**

I refer to your letter of 23 August 2016 regarding the first directions hearing for the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

I thank you for your interest in the work of the Royal Commission and for supporting the Royal Commission by hosting meetings with APONT and its members.

I can confirm that the first directions hearing will be held on 6 September 2016 in Darwin. I do not expect that the hearing will be longer than a few hours.

The first directions hearing is primarily an opportunity for Commissioner White AO, Commissioner Gooda, and Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission to each deliver an opening address.

The Commissioners will not be receiving oral submissions or taking evidence during the directions hearing. The Commissioners do not expect anyone to seek leave to appear at the directions hearing on 6 September 2016.

I appreciate that APONT and its members require as much information as possible in order to make necessary arrangements to seek leave to appear. A practice guideline will shortly be available on our website which will provide further details. I will ensure that you are emailed a copy of the practice guideline when it is released.

It is expected that further public hearings will be held from early-mid October 2016. I will ensure that you are informed of the details of future hearings once the details are finalised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Windeyer'.

Kirsty Windeyer  
Official Secretary  
Telephone: 02 6141 4108 Mobile: 0477 763 824  
Email: [Kirsty.Windeyer@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:Kirsty.Windeyer@royalcommission.gov.au)