

Media Release



16 September 2014

An Anglicare Australia response to the Royal Commission

Anglicare Australia today released a resource that details the organisational 'family tree' of those organisations in the Anglicare Australia network offering or that have offered institutional care to children and young people.

The *Anglicare Australia Provenance Project 2014* has been produced to help anyone who was in care with an Anglican care agency that has since ceased to exist, to find the current agency or Diocese that has taken over the organisation's identity or function for that care.

"The idea for this resource came as we were thinking about what it means to apologise," said Anglicare Australia Executive Director, Kasy Chambers.

"In 2009, the Rudd government offered an apology to Forgotten Australians – children and young people abused and neglected in Australian institutional care. Previously, similar apologies for their part had been offered by individual dioceses of the Anglican Church and by the Anglican Church of Australia, as well as by many Anglicare Australia members.

"What did such an apology mean to Anglicare Australia we wondered, and how could we give life to that apology.

"One thing we learnt from those who lived in these institutions was how difficult it can be for them or their descendants to find out where they had lived.

"Further, if they had been abused, or simply wished to retrieve and view their records, changes in the ownership of organisations could make it difficult to know where to look or who to ask.

"The result is this Provenance Project. It is a resource designed to make those first stages easier for those who lived in homes run by agencies that are members of Anglicare Australia or their antecedent organisations."

Anglicare Australia has 40 members currently across Australia. Many of them are conglomerates of previous Anglican agencies that have since ceased to exist; others have taken over the functions, identity or parts of other agencies that have also ceased to exist or changed functions and focus.

"As you look through the Provenance Project you will see that there were once many small organisations and homes," Ms Chambers said. "As time has moved on, as society has asked for a more professional approach to these services, many of the smaller homes have folded or merged into other entities.

"Like any family tree the details can become opaque as we look deeper into time. We hope this project makes the history clearer."

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