

effect will be forwarded in writing. I feel that the high regard in which the Salvation Army is held in Government circles is responsible for the sympathetic handling of the situation.... Whilst it seems imperative that Captain Schultz should be moved, I feel the Department will be reasonable in allowing time for a replacement to be found and I hardly think Captain Schultz will allow himself to be indiscreet in this manner again. Captain Wilson speaks well of his work generally.’²⁸⁰

9.5.14 The Commission noted that two house-parents employed at Indooropilly had both informed Colonel Peterson in 1973 and 1975 about sexual and physical abuse conducted by managers at the home. No action was taken as a result of this, and after their second complaint in 1975 they were dismissed from their posts by the manager whose abusive behaviour they had reported. Senior officers in the Army supported their dismissal.²⁸¹

9.5.15 The Commission also received a copy of a letter dated 21st March 1974 from the Social Services Secretary to the territorial Chief Secretary concerning charges of indecency against boys at Goulborn by a member of staff working there. The accused officer had been charged after a photographer visiting the home had passed on to the Child Welfare Department allegations made to him by children at the home that this officer had anal and oral sex with two boys there. The Child Welfare Department subsequently contacted the New South Wales police who made a limited investigation and pressed charges of indecency. In this letter, written the day after the charges were made, the Social Services Secretary writes:

‘Major [X4] reports that the police have been most helpful and they regret the manner in which the affair has been handled and share our wish that the matter had been dealt with without it having to be treated as a criminal offence. Being a criminal offence means that the police are powerless to stop all the usual processes of law but they have assured Major [X4] arrangements are being made for all details of the case to be withheld from the press.... Major [X4]... has offered to accommodate Captain [X17, the accused] during the period of remand. This will give us the opportunity of assessing whether intervention can be arranged through the Justice Department or whether we have to arrange for legal representation to see the case through the Quarter Sessions.’²⁸²

9.5.16 The Salvation Army’s Territorial Commander, its most senior officer in that region, wrote on the same day to the New South Wales Minister of Justice briefly noting the details of the case and saying that ‘any action which will minimise publicity and not hinder our work in the Home would be appreciated’.²⁸³ The Salvation Army subsequently requested, through the accused officer’s lawyer, to have his case heard in a closed court away from Goulborn. The case

²⁸⁰ Royal Commission, *Case Study 5*, Exhibit: Letter from Assoc. State Social Secretary to Lieut. Colonel G. Peterson, 19th July 1973.

²⁸¹ Royal Commission, *Case Study 5*, Report pp.52-5.

²⁸² Royal Commission, *Case Study 5*, Exhibits: Letter from Social Services Secretary to Colonel Holz, Chief Secretary, 21st March, 1974.

²⁸³ Royal Commission, *Case Study 5*, Exhibits: Letter from Commissioner Harry Williams, Territorial Commander to The Hon. Maddison, NSW Minister of Justice’, dated 21st March 1974.