



Royal Commission into the Detention of Children in the Northern Territory

29 July 2016

Statement by the Royal Commissioner, the Hon Brian Ross Martin AO QC

I have become aware of media reports today concerning my daughter's employment by the former Northern Territory Labor Government during a period covered by the Letters Patent issued to me yesterday.

My daughter was employed as a Justice Adviser to the Hon Delia Lawrie, Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, from late 2009 to March 2011. It is my daughter's memory that during the period of her employment with the Northern Territory Government, she had no involvement in the Northern Territory child protection or child detention systems. I am advised that Ministerial responsibility for those matters was held by the Hon Gerald McCarthy, who served as Minister for Correctional Services, and the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy and the Hon Konstantine Vatskalis, who served as Ministers for Child Protection during that period.

I am unable to discern any possibility that my daughter could be a witness before the Royal Commission.

I disclosed this matter to the Attorney-General prior to my appointment as Commissioner and we were both satisfied that it would not compromise the independence or appearance of independence of the Royal Commission.

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