

# Dear Friends in Australia and New Zealand

We are writing to you today to share a response that we have provided to our overseers from a collective group of concerned friends. This is in regard to the overseers letter of the 18th August, 2023, to inform us of the new advisory group.

We are forwarding a copy for your viewing to open dialogue with the ministry and the advisory group. This will help inform the process and we encourage you to communicate any concerns and feedback you may have to our overseers. Being made aware of the questions we have asked will help you know what has already been raised, to avoid inundating the advisory group with duplications. We would also like to inform you of multiple online resources relating to the current crisis within our fellowship of child sexual abuse and sexual abuse. These platforms are invaluable resources that help us to keep informed and connected. \_\_\_\_\_

Concerned and Connected Friends –

Australia/New Zealand Chat (<https://connected-and-concerned-friends.mn.co/spaces/11570094/chat>)

This is an online platform that has been set up for concerned and connected friends all over the world. Within this platform, there is an Australian/New Zealand chat group that we can all use to connect on issues of concern for us. Within this group, we are beginning to develop further ways we can connect through zoom meetings and sharing of resources. We are also looking at ways to provide more education and information. Please join us there if you would like more support during these extremely difficult times.

The Brave Truth Australia –

Webpage and Hotline <https://thebravetruthaustralia.com/> For more information on the Australian context of child sexual abuse and sexual abuse within our fellowship, this is a helpful resource. On this page, you will find a confidential hotline number where you can report. This does not take the place of formal police reporting but is focussed on accountability and exposure of perpetrators. There is also a private Facebook page available for online connection. Important note on this website is: If you have information which involves current sexual abuse of a minor you will need to immediately report this information to the relevant authorities in your State or call CrimeStoppers – 1800 333 000.

Wings for Truth –

Webpage <https://wingsfortruth.info/> WINGS has been advocating for victims/survivors within our fellowship for 15 years and they continue to provide information, support and guidance as we address this grave concern. There is updated and historical information from around the world that will help you to understand the enormity of what we are currently facing.

Advocates for the Truth –

Webpage and Hotline <https://www.advocatesforthetruth.com/> Since the news was first communicated in regard to allegations of sexual misconduct against late senior worker (overseer) Dean Bruer and the subsequent exposure of child sexual abuse within our fellowship, Cynthia, Sheri and Lauren have been working hard to advocate and give voice and protection to victim/survivors within our fellowship. They also have a hotline you can contact for International and Australian/New Zealand cases of child sexual abuse as well as information on current open and active cases. You can donate on their page to help provide support for investigative and legal expenses, as well as victim therapy. \_\_\_\_\_ We are grateful for the effort people are putting in to provide so much support, care and compassion for victims/survivors and our fellowship. There are two concerns that unite us all and that is healing from the past and the safety of our children for the future.

Please use these resources available to you as we work prayerfully together towards positive change. Also, we repeat the information provided by the overseers letter regarding support available in Australia and New Zealand. Australia:

<https://www.childsafety.gov.au/> or 24/7 support on 1800 737 732. New Zealand:

<https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/listing-information-support-resources-childabuse> or 24/7 support on 0508 26 459.

Please look after yourselves and we look forward to seeing you within the chat group of the Concerned and Connected Friends where we can join together in edification and support. Reach out to the communities you feel comfortable in that can support you as you process your individual experiences.

Yours in gratitude,

Concerned and Connected Friends of Australia and New Zealand