

Public statement from YMCA Australia on 21st October, 2013

The YMCA condemns child sexual abuse and recognises its devastating long-term impacts on the lives of children and their families, including the victims of Jonathon Lord and all other child abuse victims and their families.

“YMCA has great people and a great culture based on the values of honesty, respect, caring and responsibility. We provide services to hundreds of thousands of children and young people each year and we have a community responsibility and duty of care to protect them from harm at all times,” said President of the National Council of the YMCAs of Australia, Graham Kent.

The YMCA will be the subject of a second public hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Childhood Sexual Abuse, commencing 21 October.

This inquiry will relate to the YMCA’s response to issues relating to former YMCA NSW childcare worker Jonathon Lord who was in January 2013 convicted and jailed in relation to multiple counts of child sexual abuse in the Caringbah region.

“We are devastated that children in our care, and their families, have been impacted despite the YMCA’s continual dedication and significant investment into ensuring children are safe from harm,” Mr Kent said.

“We fully support the work of the Royal Commission to help Australia prevent the abuse of children and young people, and we will continue to do everything within our power to prevent the abuse of children and young people both in our care and in the wider community,” Mr Kent said.