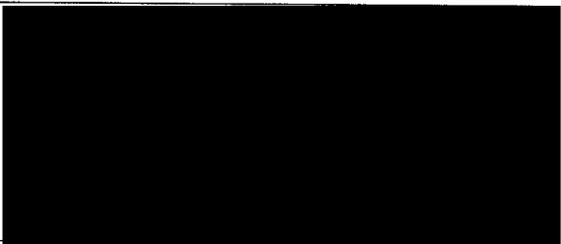


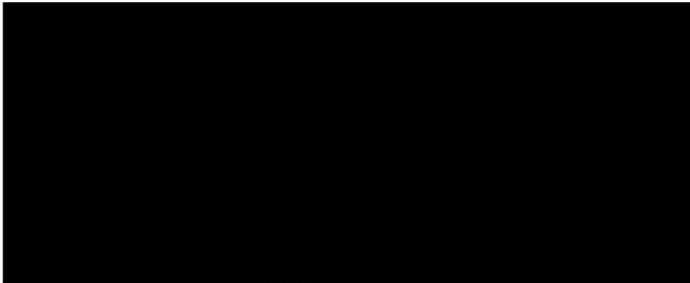
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

ATTACHMENT JA-2 TO STATEMENT OF JUDITH DORENE ABBOTT

Date of document: 14 July 2015
Filed on behalf of: State of Victoria
Prepared by:
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office
Level 33
80 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



This is the attachment marked "**JA-2**" produced and shown to **JUDITH DORENE ABBOTT** at the time of signing her Statement on 14 July 2015.



**An Australian Legal Practitioner within
the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)**

Attachment JA-2: Examples of State funded research projects

The Department funds the analysis and publication of a range of alcohol and drug statistics by Turning Point. This analysis was originally produced as a series of handbooks, but data is now available via an online portal, AODstats, to provide more timely access to available data (<http://www.aodstats.org.au>).

AODstats aims to describe major patterns of alcohol and drug use and associated harm, including trends in these over time. It is based on a number of data sets, including those compiled by the Department, and includes information on confirmed incidents of alcohol related family violence by local government area and State-wide (sourced from Victoria Police).

A key data set for monitoring the effects of changing drug patterns and associated harms to health is the ambulance attendance data series. Turning Point is funded to analyse paramedic records to produce reports about the number, distribution and primary substance of concern for all alcohol and drug related ambulance attendances across Victoria each year. This data provides valuable insights into trends in drug use patterns. The ambulance attendance data does not specifically identify and track alcohol related family violence incidents, but it does record whether police were in attendance.

In relation to research to support evidence based treatment priorities, Turning Point has also been commissioned by the Department to complete a range of practical research projects to support continuous improvement and best practice across the Victorian drug sector. These projects include:

- analysis of client-level data collected during screening, assessment and review to develop a profile of service needs, based on both alcohol and drug dependence and a range of key , co-occurring life complexity factors (e.g. care of children, housing, legal issues). This will inform alcohol and drug service design and planning and also help identify other related service needs of the alcohol and drug client group;
- the development of a new bed vacancy register, to support the more effective use of available bed based withdrawal and rehabilitation services across the State funded alcohol and drug treatment system; and
- the development of draft guidance to enhance the skills and understanding of practitioners responding to parents with alcohol and drug issues who have dependent children. Two particular products are currently under development:

- 2 -

- Guidelines for helpline counsellors that aim to assist them in eliciting sensitive information to determine whether there are immediate risks to children, and where there is no immediate risk, to assist the counsellors to provide parenting guidance and support through referral to appropriate services; and
- A 'brief intervention' for helpline counsellors working with family members which provides an overview of the key messages to be delivered by counsellors, with the objective of encouraging callers to consider their own needs and self-care through prompting questions. The guideline also covers enquiring about providing follow up or referral, and possible avenues for further assistance/referral.

The interventions were developed because evidence suggests that only a small proportion of families of dependent people seek treatment for themselves, so contact with the helpline provides an opportunity for active engagement and intervention. While not specifically targeted to people involved in family violence, this engagement and support is likely to improve engagement and referral.