



**TO**

**BE**

**BRAVE**





Department of  
**Children, Youth Justice  
and Multicultural Affairs**

[Redacted address information]

Dear [Redacted name]

I am writing to acknowledge and unreservedly apologise for the sexual abuse and harm you suffered as a child when you were in our care.

In my role as Deputy Director-General and on behalf of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, and personally, I apologise and am deeply sorry for the abuse you experienced and the profound harm you have suffered.

I have read what you have told us about the foster care placements and institutions in both Queensland and New South Wales where you experienced sexual, physical and emotional abuse. I am very sorry that when you were so young we did not protect you and look after you and give you the happy and secure childhood you should have had. It was our responsibility to keep you safe and we failed you.

I was deeply saddened to read what happened to you when you lived with a foster family in Queensland. We should have made checks on your welfare and investigated what was happening. It was our job to listen to you and protect you and we failed to do that.

I wanted to let you know that since the time you were in care, there have been significant changes to policies and practices to improve the safety of children. As a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Department has put in place stronger policies to protect children and we also have a deeper understanding of the need to listen to children and believe them when say something is wrong. I strongly believe that it is by respecting the voices and rights of children that we will keep them safe. Thank you for being a voice for children.

Understanding the experiences of people who have suffered abuse in the past is a very important part of my work. I want to say to you that I admire your courage to speak out about the abuse you experienced. I wish you well for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Connors".

Kate Connors

**Deputy Director-General  
Strategy**

**Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs**