Media Release

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MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AUSTRALIA

Disability organisation welcomes inquiry to clean up sector

“Muscular Dystrophy Australia fully supports the Victorian Government and Opposition’s pledge to hold an inquiry into the state's disability sector, amid allegations one of Australia's biggest disability providers failed to act on warnings about sexual abuse on clients,” said Muscular Dystrophy Australia’s Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

“As the head of national disability organisation I welcome attention being placed on our sector to help rid it of any misconduct or inefficiencies that may have invaded some organisations,” said Mr Struk.

Muscular Dystrophy Australia provides care, services and research to the 1 in 1,000 people affected by MD and is also an advocate for both its members and the wider disability community.

The Board of Yooralla announced today that it had accepted the resignation of CEO Sanjib Roy effective from Sunday 23 November 2014, after Roy headed the organisation for more than six years.

Yooralla has been the centre of numerous sexual abuse claims and allegations, with the organisation making a conscious effort to strengthen its processes and protocols since 2011.

“It is paramount that an organisation instils stringent procedures and checks from the moment of its inception in order to try and curb these events happening. We at MDA have always placed strict rules and policies on all of our volunteers and carers to ensure our members are protected and this is why we sought and gained ISO Certification to ensure best practice compliance,” said Mr Struk.

“Of course not everything can be prevented, but it is especially important to be vigilant in our sector – where many of the members have physical and verbal limitations – to make sure people are placed in the safest environment,” said Mr Struk.

“This is why we fully support any action taken by either the Government or Opposition to clean up any areas that need improving because nothing is more important to us than providing safe and secure services to some of our most vulnerable members of society,” said Mr Struk.

Four Corners will be airing a program tonight ‘In Our Care’, a joint ABC/Fairfax investigation and days out from the Victorian state election.

To arrange an interview with Muscular Dystrophy Australia Executive Director, Boris M Struk, please contact:

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