

**Re visit to Chris and Anthony Foster and Emma and family on 12 July
1997.**

In discussions with Chris and Anthony Foster and in meeting Emma but not talking in depth with her, it would appear that Emma's claims to having been abused by Kevin O'Donnell are true.

Much of the discussion surrounded the financial aspects, however, the story told by the parents and Emma's presenting psychological and psychiatric behaviours are consistent with serious abuse. The parents conveyed the story of what had happened to Emma. I would prefer to talk with you regarding my assessment of the family who on surface appeared to be deeply anxious about their daughter and her future. This would not be inconsistent with what their story is surrounding the abuse of Emma.

Because of Emma's age it may be many years before the real story is known, however, I think we probably have a responsibility for her care and I discussed this with Richard Leder and I will follow it through with Professor Ball tomorrow. I don't believe that Emma should have to go through intense psychiatric assessment at this stage and hope that we can get adequate information, or at least read files from Monash Medical Centre and/or from Michael Schwartz's file, with the family's consent or find an alternative means of gaining any further information.

I believe that the visit was very worthwhile and have an opening to keep contact with them. It would appear that many of the difficulties surround the fact that we have received no information about promises that were made by the previous hierarchy and they assumed that we already knew this information.

Sue Sharkey
14 July 1997