



Catholic Education
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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MEMO

TO:	FR DAVID CAPPO
FROM:	ALLAN DOOLEY
DATE:	25TH JULY 2001
SUBJECT:	ST ANN'S SPECIAL SCHOOL ABUSE CLAIMS

Dear David,

About two months ago [REDACTED] (Federation of Parents and Friends mentioned to me that a parent had serious concerns about some past incidents in one of our schools. I encouraged her to encourage the person to make contact for a conversation. On Monday 23 July, LJ [REDACTED] a parent I know from association over the years with the Federation and because of her association with special education as a parent, contacted me and conveyed some initial concerns about alleged abuse that took place about ten years ago at St Ann's Special School involving a bus driver, Brian Perkins.

Following this brief conversation we set a meeting for yesterday at 5.15 pm with Jane Swift and me. LJ [REDACTED] asked Nicky Mullins to attend the meeting as well to support her.

Jane took notes and this will be written up formally.

In summary, LJ [REDACTED] said that some time ago she was with a person who had had a child at St. Anne's around the same time as her [REDACTED] had been there (circa late 80's early 90's, although it would appear her [REDACTED] left the school about 1990 prior to the specific allegations taking place). The person she was talking with asked why she didn't see her [REDACTED] very much and LJ [REDACTED] told her the story of her [REDACTED] having developed sexual desires (she termed it that he had become a sexual predator toward her) which he could not control toward her. She also feared for her daughter. Her [REDACTED] is now 30. Eventually he was asked to leave home and was accommodated elsewhere. This had caused much stress in her marriage. The person she was talking to then asked if she knew what had happened at St Ann's re Brian Perkins being a paedophile. LJ [REDACTED] did not know the allegations as her [REDACTED] had left prior to this emerging at the School. The person suggested that her stepson might behave like this because of abuse that may have occurred at the hands of Brian Perkins.

LJ [REDACTED] has since made contact with other parents and the following picture has emerged from her conversations.

1. Brian Perkins was a volunteer bus driver for about six years up and occasionally he was employed on a casual basis, until the termination of his casual and volunteer work in 1991 because of allegations that had been made against him. I understand that charges may have been laid but have not been able to determine this to date. I have attached a copy of Yvonne's enquiries and comments to date about Brian Perkins.

2. Parents would entrust their children in his care at weekends, for weekend camping and sometimes to stay at his home on occasions. The REDAC of LJ, LA was not allowed to do so. Brian was well loved and trusted in the community. LJ knew him during the enrolment time of her REDA, LA.
3. On these camps and occasions it is alleged that photographs (pornographic) were taken of children. It is alleged that other incidents took place, 'parents say their children were exposed to bondage, being locked in wardrobes and other sex games (in particular a nappy game). Children have also spoken about a man with a balloon'.
4. On the bus it is alleged that he would park the bus on occasions and ask the girls to expose their breasts and the boys their genitals and then fondling would take place – among the students.
5. It is alleged that he would camp outside camping grounds (in a caravan) to save money. Parents are concerned that other adults may have been involved.
6. These matters came to the notice of the school (and police) when one of the female students (ME) went into his home and saw photos on the table. He said to her that he could also take photos of her too but she declined and then reported the matter to her Grandmother. Apparently the police were informed and the home raided. Later one of the parents was asked to identify her child in some of the photographs which she did.
7. It is also alleged that Mr Perkins was a general volunteer and support person (unpaid or sometimes paid on a casual basis) in the school and that further incidents may have occurred in the wood work room.
8. At about the same time the school was informed and Brian Perkin's work was terminated. Further archive searches may disclose other documents.
9. I spoke briefly with the principal of the day Claude Hamman (now principal at Tenison Woods, Richmond). Apparently the staff were confidentially informed and offered counselling. Claude did not know the outcome of any charges nor where Brian went after he left the employ of the school. I understand that Brian Perkins had been a voluntary bus driver and was casually employed from time to time. Claude did not mention the wood work room and told me that all offences or allegations took place off site and out of hours. He confirmed that photos were involved. He contacted the Chair of the Board, Paul Morrissey and the parents of two boys were notified. This is consistent broadly with what LJ conveyed during her discussion with me.
10. Claude says that whilst parents were not informed formally across the school he believes it would have been generally known. No contact was made with LJ as a past parent. She is very concerned that the abuse could have been going on for years, that LA could have been involved and that there was no further investigation or contact made with families.
11. I am advised by LA she has spoken with four additional families and that each alleges abuse at the hands of Brian Perkins over a period of time. Each of the students has some behaviour manifestation the parents believe could be associated with such abuse.

The families are:

- NM and NO (LE [REDACTED]), their son is MU now aged 28.
 - LL (LE [REDACTED]), his son LB is now 24.
 - NE - Her son MX is deceased - and whilst she has spoken with LJ she is not prepared to make any further contact at this time for investigation or discussion. She was responsible for two foster children as well, LH and MA. This family appears to be the worst case involving the abuse, although LJ did not give specific details other than noted generally above in note 3.
 - LO (LE [REDACTED]) is the mother of LE now aged 28.
 - LI and LJ (LE [REDACTED]). LJ is the person we spoke to yesterday. She is unsure whether her son has been abused but believes that such could have contributed to his sexual predatory behaviour.
 - LJ is still trying to contact the Family 1 and the family of LD LD We did not comment on her making contact or any part of her process in bringing this to our attention.
12. The families listed above are aware that LJ was speaking with me yesterday. LJ says that the families whose phone numbers are indicated above are happy to be interviewed. I indicated that she should encourage them to make contact and gave her contact details for me and Jane. Our view is that we should make contact early next week and invite a conversation.
 13. LJ says that some families have tried to find out further information about what happened through the police and more recent contact with Claude Hamman (probably about four years ago - he did not report this contact to us). One parent is so angry that she has been trying to locate Brian Perkins to kill him.
 14. She believes the parents (including herself) wish access to counselling, accurate information about what took place, the current location of Brian Perkins, and ongoing support for their family and disabled children. They also wish to know who was in the photos.
 15. The parents feel that Claude, and the Church has let them down.
 16. At the time (and now) the two special schools are a part of an incorporated body of which the Archbishop is the Governing Chairperson. The Director of Catholic Education is also a member of the governing body. The governing body has a council, currently chaired by Michael Critchley and chaired at the time by Paul Morrissey.
 17. LJ approached me as a person she trusted and has conveyed that to other parents.
 18. I am currently taking steps to collect all files we have regarding this matter including those held by the school.

I recommend that:

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1. the matter be referred to the Professional Standards Committee;
2. Jane and I seek a meeting with the Director of the Professional Standards Committee to discuss these claims further. This will involve a discussion to clarify the ongoing process which may involve Jane and/or I meeting with families given the trust which has brought about the possibility of us hearing these concerns.

I have attached some documents to add further information to this memo namely:

- Written notes from St Ann's file – September 1991 (Michael Critchley);
 - Draft memo – unsigned – September 1991;
 - Letter from Baker O'Loughlin;
 - Emails (2) comments from Yvonne Webb – regarding Brian Perkins – 23/24 July 2001.
3. I also have notes handed to me by LJ at the meeting (not enclosed) and have notes from my conversation with Claude Hamman.

Should you require any further information at this stage please let me know.

Regards,



Allan Dooley

Allan,

I agree with these recommendations.
Please proceed as quickly as possible.

To David Capps
Vicar General
26/7/01