



Catholic Education
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Catholic Education Centre
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MEMO

TO:	ARCHBISHOP WILSON
FROM:	ALLAN DOOLEY
DATE:	2 JUNE 2004
SUBJECT:	MICHAEL CRITCHLEY

Dear Archbishop Wilson,

I attach a copy of the following information

1. Copy of Michael's letter to me indicating his wish to stand aside and I will forward a copy of my acceptance letter to you tomorrow. I have verbally accepted his offer to stand aside
2. Copy of advice to schools and CEO staff regarding Michael Critchley
3. Copy of Michael's statement to the Investigation upon which the comments in the report were made
4. Notes that Michael provided in regard to his statement

I believe the findings from the report should now be further put to Michael Critchley and his responses noted in order that we can conclude as quickly as possible any ramifications for Michael's continuing duties with Catholic education.

I recommend I form a small panel (I suggest two persons) to undertake that task and to report through me to you in regard to these matters.

I will discuss with you further as to who the members of the panel should be.

I suggest the following as a possible brief for the panel:

The panel should interview Michael Critchley (with his adviser) with a view to:

1. *Putting the relevant findings from the report to him;*
2. *Inviting him to provide any more expansive information as to his role in the matter;*
3. *putting to him any further questions that may be necessary to complete the factual base on which the findings made;*
4. *providing him with the opportunity to respond to the findings; and*

5. *making any recommendations as to what action (if any) should be taken against him*

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allan".

Allan



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Mr Allan Dooley
Director
Catholic Education Office
116 George Street
THEBARTON SA 5031

Dear Allan

In the light of the information contained in the St Ann's Report in which I am named and consistent with the policies and practices adopted by this Office I wish to stand aside from my current duties in Catholic Education and as Chair of the Special Schools Board of Management pending your and the Archbishop's further consideration of the report and your decision as to what further action, if any, needs to be taken.

I ask that this appraisal be undertaken as quickly as possible and I look forward to assisting in any way I can with this matter.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Critchley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

MICHAEL CRITCHLEY
CO-ORDINATOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

2 June 2004

Dooley, Allan

From: Dooley, Allan [Allan.Dooley@ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2004 4:52 PM
To: * Principals - All (Mailing List); CEO All
Subject: [Principals - All] St Ann's Report [scanned]

Dear Colleagues,

By now you will be aware that the Archbishop has published the advice and report which he commissioned Mr Brian Hayes QC to prepare relating to the handling of matters following the discovery in 1991 of Brian Perkins' abuse of some students at St Ann's Special School.

Included in the findings in the report are criticisms of the Catholic Education Office generally and of Michael Critchley in particular.

In light of that information and consistent with the policy of this office in such matters, Michael has readily offered to stand aside from his duties in Catholic education pending further consideration of those findings and the material on which they were based.

I thank Michael for his initiative and his willingness to assist us through this process.

Regards,

Allan.

STATEMENT OF:

Michael Critchley
12 North Terrace
Highgate SA

Taken: Friday 24th January 2003

In 1991 I was employed by the Catholic Education Office at Thebarton as Coordinator of Resources.

My job involved financial control, human resource management and dealing with legal issues.

My first knowledge of the issue at St Ann's was as a result of a telephone call which I received from the then Principal Claude Hamam at or about the beginning of September 1991. I made handwritten notes of that conversation at the time. A copy of those handwritten notes is attached to this statement.

My recollection of the conversation, both from my own memory and from refreshing my memory by reference to those handwritten notes, is that Claude Hamam rang me with a query about how he should deal with a volunteer bus driver who was alleged by the police to have abused some children off site. He told me the bus driver's name, Brian Perkins, which I endorsed on my notes.

I was not sure at the time, and Claude Hamam did not mention, that the children who were alleged to be the victims were in fact students at St Ann's. Claude Hamam did not tell me how many children were involved.

The thrust of his call was to get my advice as to how he could get rid of the bus driver and prevent him from having any further involvement in the school.

I told him to contact the police and Family and Children's Services. I then concluded that he would have to write to the bus driver telling him that his volunteer services were no longer required. I spoke to our lawyer Susan Zeitz at Minter Ellison about the best way of achieving that. In the meantime I suggested that he should make arrangements to get a relief bus driver.

After that phone call I telephoned Susan Zeitz at Minter Ellison on 3rd September 1991. I have a diary note of that call, a copy of which is attached to this statement. I explained the issue which had been raised by Claude Hamam and sought her advice.

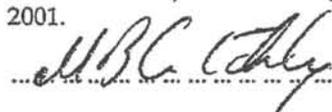
She prepared a draft letter for Claude Hamam to send to the bus driver and sent it by facsimile to me with a covering letter on 5th September 1991. Copies of that draft letter and her facsimile of 5th September 1991 are attached to this statement.

I sent that draft letter to Claude Hamam on 9th September 1991 and I believe he then sent that letter on the school letterhead to Brian Perkins.

At that time St Ann's was reasonably autonomous as a matter of practice and they only contacted the CEO if they needed specialist advice on a particular topic. The school did not come within the general funding of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools until 1995.

Back in 1991 when this issue arose, my recollection is that FACS and the police made a point of insisting to the schools that they do and say nothing to anyone in cases where sexual abuse of students was alleged because it may corrupt their investigations. The practice, as dictated by those authorities, was that anything which involved mandatory reporting was to be the subject of a report by the appropriate teacher and then the teacher was to say nothing to anyone else and stay right out of the matter.

After my communication with Claude Hamam on 9th September 1991 (when I sent him the draft letter to the bus driver) I heard nothing further about the episode whatever until it became public again in 2001.

 dated 5/12/03



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FILE

Mr Michael Critchley
12 North Terrace
HIGHGATE SA 5063

Dear Michael

Thank you for your letter indicating your wish to stand aside from your duties in the CEO and as Chair of the Special Schools Board of Management.

I accept your offer and will ensure that any further appraisal of material is completed as quickly as possible. I will treat this as Special Leave with full entitlements. I will also cover any legal costs associated with any advice or representation you wish to seek during this process.

Should you wish to seek counselling support any costs associated with this support will be covered by this office.

Please feel free to contact Jane Swift or Vin Thomas at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allan Dooley'.

ALLAN DOOLEY
DIRECTOR

3rd June 2004