

ST ANN'S TASKFORCE SUMMARY
HELD AT CATHEDRAL OFFICE WEDNESDAY 2/04/03

Present: Pauline Frick, Sue Cain, Joan Atkinson, Tony fuller, Allan Dooley, Anne Carolin, Jane Swift, Chris Rann, David Cappel.

Apologies: Archbishop Wilson

Allan welcomed Chris Rann to the meeting.

Allan reminded all that with the CEO solicitor present these meetings were privileged in terms of information shared.

T F. [REDACTED] has not made an interview time with Tony as yet. If she decides not to be interviewed Tony will rely on the statement made to Eileen Young

Allan summarized the St. Ann's Enquiry

- A total of 90 families have been interview by police
- Families have been categorized into three groups
- Category 1 7 families - high probability students have been abused
- Category 2 25 families - probability of possible abuse is unclear
- Category 3 62 families - unlikely that students were at risk of abuse

Parents have had two pathways for addressing their concerns

1. Towards Healing Statements with Professional Standards
2. 11 Families engaged a solicitor Donald Craig in a class action.

Tony Fuller is working on enquiry to establish if there is any evidence of professional negligence. Claims against CCI are dependent on proof of professional negligence. Pastoral settlement is also been considered and Archbishop Wilson is working with CCI to reach some agreement about this.

The progress of the enquiry has been hindered as some families have refused to be interviewed. The enquiry is expected to be completed in the next two months.

Brian Hayes is succeeding Chris Kourakis as head of the enquiry. Tony Fuller has provided Brian with the brief of the St. Ann's enquiry.

The District Court Hearing is scheduled for August. It will be a closed court hearing. Details pertaining to school, families and students will not be reported but families are likely to be aware of developments in the media coverage.

Families are aware that the enquiry is proceeding. Families have been told that settlement through Towards Healing does not preclude them from following through with civil action at a later stage.

Media:

- The civil enquiry is premised on the inherent assumption that BP is guilty. Media reports could prejudice the trial.
- Archbishop Wilson is limited in the information he can share from the enquiry as the matter is sub judice at this point in time.
- It is important not to create expectations that the enquiry will be able to provide detailed answers to questions of all interested parties.
- Chris Rann suggested that while this was true it was important to get something out to the media. It was decided to keep close liaison and confidential briefings if any with 3 key media representatives.
- David Cappo has had an extensive conversation with Thea Williams from the Australian. He explained the dilemma about disclosing information from the enquiry prior to the trial.
- Thea expressed concerns about the confidential nature of settlements between the church and families. David assured Thea that there is no clause in any TH settlement that binds families to confidentiality.
- Chris Rann advised that it was preferable to keep confidential discussion going with the press rather than put anything out in writing at this stage.
- Tony asked how confident Chris Rann was that the press representatives would remain confidential. Mike said that there had been significant improvements in the relationship with Thea Williams
- Joan Atkinson asked Tony when he expected that his report would be ready for the Archbishop. Tony said that this was dependent on REDAC REDAC's readiness to be interviewed.
- The announcement about Brian Hayes appointment is best done at a private briefing on an individual basis with each of the 3 key journalists.

Allan Dooley visited the staff at St. Ann's on Tuesday 1/04/03 to keep them up to date with developments

Professional Standards:

- Sue Cain reported that she has made contact with Kevin Ryan in WA regarding advice in working with claims through Towards Healing.
- She said that Professional Standards was unable to move forward with Family 6 until issues with CCI had been sorted out.
- Tony Fuller confirmed that CCI response was dependent on REDAC REDAC's evidence. If her notification occurred toward the end of 1997 most of the alleged abuse occurred in the 4 years prior to this. It would not reflect well on Claude's professional conduct if it could be established that he was put on notice about parental concerns and subsequently took no action.

Anne Carolin
Project Officer Towards Healing