

(g) Allegations concerning the Bexley Boys Home run by the Salvation Army.

Within the correspondence submitted to Strike Force Cori by Franca Arena were documents relating to the Salvation Army Boys Home at Bexley. One letter was from a former resident EP who lived at the home from 1974-78. He made allegations of physical and sexual abuse by staff and described the regime within the home, giving rise to a great deal of concern.

EP's psychologist, Mark Blows, was so concerned about the revelations that were being made by his patient that he too wrote to Franca Arena voicing his concern.

Enquiries by Strike Force detectives revealed that EP had made a complaint to police at Campbelltown concerning a Salvation Army Officer, Captain Lawrence Alan Wilson, now aged 72yrs who was being prosecuted for sexual offences committed against EP. However, the offences were being treated in isolation and did not address other behaviour that is alleged to have occurred at the Home.

Strike Force detectives made further inquiries and spoke to another former resident, FV who also went on to make serious allegations against Captain Wilson. These included serious physical assault and a range of sexual offences. If his story proves to be true, it appears

that Wilson officiated over a paedophile network which rented out boys at weekends. FV
describes having been sent to homes in Sydney where he was obliged to engage in sex with a husband and wife couple, she being also a Salvation Army officer, and on another occasion with a Lesbian couple. On his return to the Home he was also subjected to serious homosexual acts by Captain Wilson.

Detectives are now in the process of tracing and interviewing other persons who were residents of the Home at the material time and the likelihood is that further victims will be revealed. Even at this early stage, the investigation appears capable of expanding to become a sizeable undertaking.

The DPP's office have been advised of Strike Force Cori's interest in the case and of the further offences which have already been disclosed. The trial of Captain Wilson for the offences committed against EP is scheduled to go ahead in November of this year and the progress of Strike Force Cori's inquiries will determine whether or not the matters may be heard together. Detectives will liaise closely with the DPP about progress of the case. It is understood that Wilson denies the offences against EP and will plead 'Not guilty'.

There is no doubt that the public revelations, whenever they are made, will cause acute embarrassment to the Salvation Army.