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NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

<<>> :Op Ref.

2 Mar 2000 :Date

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TO: OIC CIB PMC

FROM: ROGER NEWMAN

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL SEXUAL ASSAULT – DONALD HENDERSON

1. This memo is submitted to address the points raised by Assistant Commissioner DAULBY in his memo of the 18 February 2000.

The current status of the investigation is that there are currently 3 complainants in

the matter who are willing to proceed. The major complainant is

REDACTE

who has made a complaint of Sexual Assault against Donald HENDERSON whilst and **REDACTE** Carmen McMAHON have made complaints of indecent assault against HENDERSON.

For the sake of completeness it has been deemed necessary to interview

REDACT

in relation to both his offences against and also as a possible victim of HENDERSON.

When has been interviewed the file will be forwarded to the DPP for the laying of informations.

2. There is one count of Buggery (Sect. 71 Criminal Law Consolidation Act – penalty life imp.) against HENDERSON in relation to where he had penile/anal intercourse and two other counts of Indecent Assault (Sect. 72 CLCA – penalty maximum 7 years imp.) where on the first occasion he inserted a hose into the anus of and then turned it on whilst he masturbated himself and on the second occasion he inserted a spatula into S anus whilst he masturbated himself. There are also other counts of indecent assault against by HENDERSON.

3. [AJB] has informed the reporting member that he is willing to proceed against [AJD] as an offender. [AJB] is the complainant who gave a statement to the effect that he had been sexually assaulted by [AJD].
4. Donald HENDERSON was employed as a house parent at Retta DIXON homes before he left under a cloud and it was virtually a forced retirement from the position. He later worked for several years as an AMP representative and came to Police notice on other occasions for indecent acts against juveniles.

HENDERSON was also interviewed by Sgt. Alex CAROLAN and Constable SAXBY on the 10/9/75 for offences against children. The reporting member has read the court transcripts in relation to the matter and it appears that the only reason that the file never went further was due to the ineptitude of the prosecutor at the time.

HENDERSON left the Territory in 1999 after selling his home at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and then moving to the Sunshine Coast to retire.

5. The matter was initially reported in June 1988 in Alice Springs to Det. LOCKHART and the file was subsequently forwarded to the reporting member as the majority of witnesses were in the Darwin area. The reporting member then liaised with the Stolen Generation Litigation Unit who had also received several reports against HENDERSON of complaints of similar nature. As is the case with many witnesses in this matter, after promising to attend and make a complaint none failed to front even though several contacts were made. Nominated witnesses were then located and in the matter of [AJE] it was several months before a statement of complaint was finally obtained from him due to him working in remote parts of Western Australia. Other major investigations were also attended to during this period. The major complainant, [AJB] has been contacted on a regular basis since the complaint was made and initially informed by the reporting member that due to the complexity of the matter and the time between when the offence occurred and when the complaint was made there would be delays in the investigation.

Submitted as requested.

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 Roger NEWMAN
 Det. Sgt. No. 1025.