

Notes of meeting held at the Catholic Education Office on Tuesday 24th July, 2001

Present: LJ [REDACTED], Allan Dooley, Jane Swift, [REDACTED]

Allan began by welcoming LJ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and explaining Jane's role on the Professional Standards Resource Group.

LJ [REDACTED] made the following statement:

LJ [REDACTED] went to the CVS official launch – her husband was on the committee.

NM [REDACTED] and NO [REDACTED] were there. NM [REDACTED] asked LJ [REDACTED] about her [REDACTED] LA [REDACTED].

NM [REDACTED] – “You don't have a lot to do with LA [REDACTED]?”

LJ [REDACTED] – “There is a reason.”

LJ [REDACTED] – “LA [REDACTED] had become a sexual predator.”

LJ [REDACTED] considered taking her daughter, [REDACTED] and leaving home as she was frightened to be alone with LA [REDACTED]. LJ [REDACTED] had to wear a dressing gown, lock her bedroom door. Her husband was on shift work.

LA [REDACTED], who is now 30, was put into [REDACTED] because of behaviour problems. He comes home at Christmas – LJ [REDACTED] now hates Christmas.

NM [REDACTED] – “I think I can tell you why this has happened.” She went on to say that the bus driver who drove kids at St Ann's was a paedophile. LJ [REDACTED] waited a few days before talking to her husband about this, because she was concerned for his health.

NM [REDACTED] told LJ [REDACTED] more. NM [REDACTED] gave LJ [REDACTED] the phone numbers of other people whose children were victims. LJ [REDACTED] listed names of people. These people wanted LJ [REDACTED] to let them know if we were going to contact them.

Brian Perkins was the bus driver; he ingratiated himself with the school community. He was employed by school and parents trusted him.

Claude Haman rang NM [REDACTED] and NO [REDACTED] and LK [REDACTED] and asked them to come to a meeting. He then told them at the meeting that Brian was a paedophile. They weren't told whether anything had happened to their children. They wanted more information.

There was no follow up for old students and there was no public meeting for St Ann's parents, which LJ [REDACTED] thought should have happened.

Parents and children were given no counselling. LJ [REDACTED] understands that staff were fully informed but not supposed to talk about it.

Brian Perkins lived at Hendrie Street, Morphetville. Many parents allowed their kids to go there.

Brian took 4 boys in a caravan for the weekend. They stayed outside of the caravan park to save money. MU was one of these. Brian also taught in the woodwork shop, often alone. One mother thinks abuse took place there. Brian was involved in the pedal prix and had students alone often in relation to this.

There was a rumour that Brian Perkins had abused REDACTED.

Children who are suspected of being victims of Brian's abuse have spoken to parents about bondage, being put in a wardrobe, games with nappies, a man with a "small balloon", and a man in a dressing gown.

Parents were not able to access accurate information. One father said his son has lost all his gained skills since the abuse and this points to sexual abuse. One father has difficulty getting his son to leave the house.

There was no follow up from the school and no offer of help.

The parents LJ spoke to were calmer by the second phone call that she made to them. Parents want all the information that Claude has access to. (NM is still tormented by what may have happened to MU her son.)

They want to know where Brian Perkins is now, whether special schools around Australia have been warned. Were charges laid? They want recognition that this happened. They want the option of therapy when crises come up. The need to know is uppermost for parents.

ME, now an old scholar of St Ann's, was picked up by Brian one day near the school. He took her to his flat; she saw photos of children in sexual poses. He said "I can take lovely photos of you too." Photos were collected by the police after ME told her grandmother what had happened. NE had to identify her RE and REDACT in the photos. They were in sexual poses. Parents don't know whether there are other photos. Parents want information.

MU's experience with Brian concerns his parents. Brian said let him sleep overnight. On a particular occasion NM saw them buying two giant bags of lollies and no other children turned up for the sleepover.

Parents believe that Brian Perkins picked people who were not good communicators.

NE was REDACTED to LH. LH became violent and has been removed. Her son MX died a couple of years ago. Both these intellectually disabled young men were abused by Brian. He took photos of them in sexual poses.

Brian Perkins, while working as a bus driver, used to stop the bus and have the children engage in sexual activity together – boys and girls.

LA, LJ REDA did not want to go on the bus. Eventually he was travel trained to use public transport.

LJ thinks that the Norwood CIB dealt with the matter.

NM told LJ that 3 or 4 years ago that Brian Perkins was the No. 1 paedophile in South Australia. NM had responded to an ad in the local newspaper asking people to contact a phone number if they wanted information about paedophile activity.

LO [] was not told anything. A staff member told LO [] about the paedophile after he left.

LJ [] thinks Brian was employed for 6 years at St Ann's. LJ []'s husband is going to connect a photo of Brian from the NM NO [] in the next couple of days.

LO [] has had a terrible time with her son – LE [] (stress and anxiety). She has had no help or therapy for him.

LJ [] never let LA [] stay with anyone overnight. But he did sleep at the pedal prix. He worked with Brian in the woodwork room.

Brian Perkins was around 50 in 1991. Everyone thought he was wonderful – he did so much with the kids. Not good with adult conversations, however.

It would be good to find out from the police where he is or what happened. Parents want to be sure that Brian can't prey on other disabled young people.

LB [] and his family left the school, sold their house, and moved to REDACT []

NM [] and NO [] tried to track Brian down. They tried to talk to Claude 4 years ago. They are still living a nightmare.

LN []'s son LD [] is currently working at CVS. He doesn't want to leave the house.

Allan explained that Archbishop Faulkner was Chair of the Board of Governors of the Special Schools and he explained the structure of the Special Schools Incorporated Body.

Claude was of no assistance in any way; there was no assistance rendered. "After it happens you would think there would be some love and kindness," said LJ []. The sense of community at St Ann's, however, was wonderful normally, but there was no community help as it was kept a secret.

LA [] left school at 20 years old in 1990 or 1991. He started at St Ann's when he was 10. He was living at REDACT [] but started at St Ann's to do the sacraments, and then was enrolled. REDACTED [] was the principal when LA [] started. He lived at home by 12 years old.

REDACTED [] knows about it. Martin Aardsen has a daughter there, and he knew once it came out.

"I think it is really important that parents who were not told are told," LJ [] said. Allan confirmed that he had not heard anything about this previously, and so did Jane. Other parents have said they would be prepared to tell their story to Allan.

LJ [] said that it is not getting any better. Parents want accurate information and recognition that it did happen. Some want therapy and some don't. Some want respite care.

LB [] as a son, called LB [] also. LJ [] was put in touch with them through the speech pathologist.

The parents whose phone numbers LJ has given to Allan expect us to phone. NE NE is not happy for us to contact her. LN may not wish to be contacted but LJ will let us know. His son LD has been a real handful.

Questions:

Why were certain people called into the school and told?

Why were others not told?

Why were parents of old scholars not told?

The families also want some protective behaviours training for their adult children.

Two Issues:

- 1) Brian Perkins
- 2) How it was handled

Signed LJ

Dated: 10/12/2001

REDACTED