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**PARENT ADVOCACY INC.**


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C/o Port Adelaide Community Health Service, Cnr Dale & Church Streets Port Adelaide SA 5015  
 Telephone (08) 8341 1376 Fax (08) 8240 9609

09<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Father David Cappel  
 Vicar General  
 The Catholic Church  
 GPO Box 1364  
 ADELAIDE 5001

Dear Father Cappel,

Yesterday afternoon I received a telephone call from the Public Advocate, John Harley, who had received a rather concerning call from the legal representative of The Church.

There were several issues raised during the telephone conversation between the Public Advocate and the legal representative concerning the meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May. The issues raised with me were,

- That The Archbishop may be placed in a position where his safety is threatened.
- That Pauline Verity may be in a position where she is at risk.
- That there may be representatives from the media present at the meeting.
- That there may be legal representatives present at the meeting.
- That the meeting is on a public holiday.
- That there is as yet no agenda for the meeting.
- That the Archbishop does not know who will be facilitating the meeting.
- That the Church would like the meeting held on Catholic Church premises.

Firstly, I would like to say that I am concerned that there has allegedly been a threat made against Pauline Verity regarding her personal safety at the meeting. I can assure you that no member of the group wishes Pauline or the Archbishop harm. It was made very clear at the preliminary meeting with families on the 6<sup>th</sup> May that although parents are still angry, there will be no verbal attacks on any of the speakers who will be attending the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May. The idea of any person being in danger has never been suggested at any meeting. As you are aware the Police will be present at the meeting and I am sure that neither they nor the parents would allow any aggressive behaviour. However we do need to know who has made these threats so we can deal with the situation and work with the parent/s involved.

I would like to assure you that there would be no representatives from the media present. The only people who will be present are the families, the Public Advocate,

and representatives from Parent Advocacy Inc, representatives from SAPOL and any persons the Church chooses to have present.

When Pauline Verity contacted Parent Advocacy Inc to arrange the meeting between the Archbishop and the families she put forward three dates. One of those dates was 20<sup>th</sup> May. This was the date chosen by the families and it was flagged with Pauline that it was a Public Holiday. She did not see this as a problem.

It is my understanding that LS [redacted] had a conversation with you last week about the fact that we were negotiating with a very experienced, skilled and strong facilitator. We have also worked extensively on an agenda, which will be forwarded to the Archbishop and you by Wednesday next week along with the name of the facilitator.

With regard to the meeting being held at a Catholic Hall. The parents are very clear that the meeting must be held on "neutral ground". I am very willing to discuss with you alternate venues but in light of the fact it is only a matter of days until the scheduled meeting, I think we need to determine a venue today.

I am disappointed to hear of these concerns in such a way. Parent Advocacy Inc and the parent group have at all times attempted to have an open dialogue with you and it is concerning that you feel the need to convey this information via legal representation through the Public Advocate. I hope we can talk at some stage today to establish what will happen on 20<sup>th</sup> May. I will be available by mobile phone [REDACTED], but not between the hours of 1:15 & 2:45pm.

Yours truly,



Karen Rogers

For and on behalf of the St Ann's parent group