

COPY

Meeting with parents of former St Anne's Special School Students
Wednesday 31st October 2001

Present:	Malcolm Robinson	Facilitator – Bower Place
	Wally Conte	SA Police
	LO	Parent
	LN	Parent
	LL & LK	Parents
	NO & NM	Parents
	LS & LR	Parents
	LI & LJ	Parents
	Karen Rogers	Parent Advocate
	Linda Clifford	Parent Advocate

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting was held for parents who believe their sons/daughters may have been victims of abuse whilst attending St Anne's Special School. Many parents have only recently discovered the abuse occurred. Some parents were getting different "messages" about what had happened and what was happening now, so it was decided to get everyone together and invite the SA Police and an independent facilitator so everyone was hearing the same information.

Introduction

Introductions were made and Malcolm Robinson handed the meeting over to Wally Conte.

Police Involvement

Wally gave a history of police involvement in the case and charges against Brian Perkins and current status of the case.

Support for Families

There was discussion about the situation and where people could go to get help for their sons/daughters who may have been affected. It was explained that if people approach Allan Dooley of The Catholic Education Office, the office will support them with counselling. There are also a number of private counselling services available and Catholic Education Office may be prepared to assist financially. Some parents felt it would be useful to continue meeting to support each other.

Other possible victims

As a number of families have only recently heard about the abuse this raises the possibility that there may be more families affected who have not yet been informed. It was decided that LO and LS would write a letter to Allan Dooley, Catholic Education Office. The letter will state that he must inform all parents of students

at St Anne's between 1987 & 1992, the period of Brian Perkins' employment at the school, informing them that there are issues that need to be discussed and giving families the option of contacting Catholic Education Office.

As there are some unidentified photographs, which were seized from Brian Perkins, parents may wish to bring in school photos of their sons and daughters for the police to view.

Justice

It is obvious there needs to be action taken here to ensure Brian Perkins is brought to justice. It was decided to invite Lea Stephens, Shadow Minister for Human Services, to attend the next meeting. Victims of Crime should be invited to another future meeting. Parents did not want the media involved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st November at Parent Advocacy, 5 Ninth St Bowden at 7:00pm.

This meeting will be attended by Lea Stephens, Shadow Minister for Human Services, and John Harley, Public Advocate.