

COPY

LR

&amp;

LS

17 November 2001

Mr Allan Dooley  
 Director  
 Catholic Education Centre  
 116 George Street  
 Thebarton, SA 5031

Dear Sir,

I write on behalf of a number of parents whose children attended the St. Ann's Special School between 1986 and 1991. During this period a person by the name of Brian Perkins was employed at the school. We have recently been informed indirectly, that during this period he sexually molested at least two and possibly more children who were attending the school at the time. These allegations are extremely distressing to us as parents as it is possible that our children, if not actually molested, possibly observed such behaviour, particularly as some are now displaying disturbed behaviour.

We wish to express our deep concern and dissatisfaction at the way this matter has been managed both at the time the school authorities became aware of the allegations, and the apparent secrecy since. We, along with other parents, have only recently learnt of the allegations and understand that the intention of the Catholic Education Centre is *not* to formally inform any parents unless they "happen" to contact the Centre.

At a recent meeting of several parents it was resolved that this letter be sent to you requesting that all parents whose children were attending St. Ann's Special School during this time receive a letter from you inviting them to contact the Centre as there are some serious issues to be discussed. If they do contact the Centre, they should then be advised of the allegations and an outline of the support and assistance available through the Catholic Education Centre will be provided.

Obviously there are many questions that we parents would want to know such as:

- what is the school's responsibility in this matter,
- why did the "system" fail to protect our children.
- what measures have since been taken to ensure that this deplorable situation does not happen again

We await your response.

Yours faithfully,

LS and LR

REDACTED