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P.V.

**St. Ann's Complaint**  
**NI [ ] and NH [ ]**  
**Meeting with REDACTED (Contact Person)**  
**Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the Catholic Education Office.**

Tilcen explained the process of taking a complaint statement under Towards Healing.

MN [ ] is now 27 years of age, living at home and working at Phoenix.  
 MN [ ] was on Brian Perkin's morning and afternoon bus run during his second period of enrolment at St. Ann's - 1988-1996. MN [ ] was one of the last students to be dropped off and the bus was often late. NI [ ] would ring another parent, REDACTED [ ] and the school to ask why. NI [ ] does not remember who she spoke to in these calls to the school. NI [ ] pointed out that St. Ann's would have been unable to tell them anything anyway because mobile phones weren't around back then. St. Ann's could only tell them the time that the bus had left the school. When NH [ ] or NI [ ] asked Perkins why the bus was late he would respond by saying that he had been doing an errand for the school or talking for a few minutes to other parents.

MN [ ] was 13 years old in 1988 when he started on the bus. Perkins also drove MN [ ] to end of year school camps in his role as the school bus driver. NI [ ] and NH [ ] have heard since from friends that a friend of Brian Perkins was at the camps operating as a cook.

St. Ann's had asked NH [ ] to assist with swimming instruction. On the occasions that he did so NH [ ] observed Perkins in the change rooms with children assisting them. NH [ ] assumes that Perkins would have been in the change rooms alone with the children if he (NH [ ]) wasn't there on occasions.

MN [ ] did woodwork. NI [ ] said that she knows Perkins was alone with children in the woodwork centre because the times she would be working in the school preparing for fetes etc. she would visit the woodwork room to see what MN [ ] was making and speak to Perkins who was in there when a teacher was not.

NI [ ] recalled that MN [ ] was taken to do his banking but she does not know who accompanied him, whether it was Perkins as the driver, or a teacher or both.

MN [ ] had no weekend respite with Perkins at any time.

Both NH [ ] and NI [ ] explained that they had no idea at the time that Perkins shouldn't have been unsupervised at any time.

NI [ ] explained that as far as bus driving was concerned, that they had on occasions, as parents, asked for an extra person to be on the bus as support, for example in case of seizures affecting a student. An aide was supplied and present for a short period.

Since MN [ ] has left St. Ann's in 1996 he has displayed a tendency to shut himself away a lot in his room and talk to himself in an aggravated manner.

Signed, NH [ ]

NI [ ]

Date: 09/05/2002

MN [ ] insists on taking NI [ ]'s dressing gown cord to bed with him where he hugs it or ties it around his head.

Both NH [ ] and NI [ ] feel that they have observed MN [ ] not liking older men, particularly if they touch him. He doesn't like that kind of personal contact. He is fine with his younger friends in terms of physical contact.

MN [ ] seemed alright in terms of behaviour at the time of catching the school bus. The only thing NH [ ] can recall is that while he would wave to Perkins MN [ ] would just keep walking away from the bus and not turn round to wave ever. He was usually very tired after what was a long day. No other behaviours were noted at the time.

At this stage the REDACTED [ ] have not accessed any family support avenues.

MN [ ] is their primary concern.

NI [ ] would like it noted that in areas where people work with people with disabilities that there is in her view not enough done in regard to checks on volunteers who tend to be taken on too readily.

Longer term should MN [ ]'s behaviour escalate or get worse then NI [ ] and NH [ ] are wanting the re-assurance that he will be able to be taken care of and supported.

Several years ago there was an incident in which detectives from Sturt arrived at the house to accuse MN [ ] of putting a piece of string around a pedestrian's neck. The person had put in a written statement to police but did not lodge a formal complaint. It was a once off incident.

MN [ ] has never been aggressive towards people. Not even to the older males has he been aggressive.

MN [ ] has Downs Syndrome and is verbal to a degree. His speech is not really clear, he speaks very quickly but those who are familiar with his speech mode are able to understand him.

If left to himself MN [ ] would gladly stay in the house and not go anywhere.

NI [ ] and NH [ ] have been thinking about the option of counselling and have got Malcolm Robinson's contact details from friends. They are interested in a psychological assessment to evaluate the possible source of MN [ ]'s aggravated speech behaviour.

They have had phone contact with the police but at this stage have not made a statement

Signed.

REDACTED [ ]

REDACTED [ ]

Date: 09/05/2002

We, authorise Pauline Verity, Director of Professional Standards to send a copy of this statement to the Child Exploitation Investigation Section of the South Australian Police.

Signed: NH

NI

Date: 09/05/2002

Signed: NH

NI

Date: 09/05/2002