



FILE

Catholic Education Centre

116 George Street Thebarton SA 5031
 PO Box 179 Torrensville Plaza South Australia 5031
 Telephone: (08) 8301 6600
 Facsimile: (08) 8301 6611
 ISD: 61 8 8301 6600
 Email: director@ceo.adf.catholic.edu.au
 www.ceo.adf.catholic.edu.au

ADD:DCW/LETTERS/STANNS/LEWANDOWSKI

Detective Sergeant Paul Lewandowski
 South Australian Police
 GPO Box 1539
 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Detective Sergeant Lewandowski

I am writing following a conversation I have recently had with a past parent whose **REDA** attended St. Ann's Special School in the late 1980's. She made certain allegations about the sexual abuse of intellectually disabled students at the hands of a person known as Brian Perkins and believes her **REDA** may also have been abused.

I understand that Pauline Verity, Director of Professional Standards for the Catholic Church in SA has spoken with you regarding this matter. Yvonne Webb from this office has also been in contact with your team. Thank you for your assistance.

The following is a summary of the information that the parent provided to me:

1. Brian Perkins was a volunteer bus driver for about six years and occasionally he was employed on a casual basis, until the termination of his casual and volunteer work in 1991 because of allegations that had been made against him. I understand that charges may have been laid but have not been able to determine this to date.
2. Parents would entrust their children in his care at weekends, for weekend camping and sometimes to stay at his home on occasions.
3. On these camps and occasions it is alleged that photographs (pornographic) were taken of children. It is alleged that other sexual abuse incidents took place
4. On the school bus it is alleged that he would park the bus on occasions and ask the girls to expose their breasts and the boys their genitals and then fondling would take place—among the students.
5. It is alleged that he would camp outside camping grounds (in a caravan) to save money. Parents are concerned that other adults may have been involved.
6. These matters came to the notice of the school (and police) when one of the female students went into his home and saw photos on the table. He said to her that he could also take photos of her too but she declined and then reported the matter to her **REDACTE**. Apparently the police were informed and the home raided. Later one of the parents was asked to identify her child in some of the photographs, which she did.
7. It is also alleged that Mr Perkins was a general volunteer and support person (unpaid or sometimes paid on a casual basis) in the school and that further incidents may have occurred in the woodwork room.
8. At about the same time the school was informed and Brian Perkins' work was terminated. Further archive searches may disclose other documents.

9. I spoke briefly with the principal of the day, Claude Hamam, (now principal at Tenison Woods, Richmond). Apparently the staff were confidentially informed and offered counselling. Claude did not know the outcome of any charges nor where Brian went after he left the employ of the school. Claude did not mention the woodwork room and told me that all offences or allegations took place off site and out of hours. He confirmed that photos were involved. He contacted the Chair of the Board, Paul Morrissey and the parents of two boys were notified.
10. Claude Hamam says that whilst parents were not informed formally across the school he believes it would have been generally known. The parent I spoke with is very concerned that the abuse could have been going on for years, that her **REDA** could have been involved and that there was no further investigation or contact made with families.
11. I am advised by the person who spoke to me that she has spoken with four additional families and that each alleges abuse at the hands of Brian Perkins over a period of time. Each of the students has some behaviour manifestation the parents believe could be associated with such abuse.
12. She says that some families have tried to find out further information about what happened through the police.
13. I have since met with two other families.

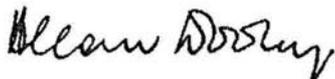
In accord with our Policies and Principles for handling matters which involve criminal allegations I have written to the families I have spoken with and advised that these matters should be referred to you in order that statements and evidence can be collected by the police in the first instance. I have assured them of our support should they require such in contacting you and have provided them with your contact details. Continuing support will also be offered.

Once the police investigation is concluded, including any court findings should that be appropriate, our own policies and procedures will be engaged to further consider pastoral and other support for these families given their particular circumstances.

Should you require any further information at this stage please let me know. Thank you again for your continuing assistance in this matter.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



ALLAN DOOLEY
DIRECTOR

15 August 2001