

COMMISSIONER'S BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Operation Cormorant

BACKGROUND

In 1993, Brian Bertum Morris Perkins was arrested and charged with 1. Taking photographs of children to satisfy a prurient interest (2 counts), 2. Indecent Assault and possession of child pornography. Perkins absconded whilst on Court bail and a warrant is currently in existence for his arrest.

The offences occurred between 1991 and 1993.

Perkins is currently believed to be in Queensland and an extradition process has commenced.

At the time of committing these offences, Perkins was employed as a bus driver at St Ann's Special School, Marion. St Ann's Special School is administered by Catholic Education and has specialised in providing opportunities to the intellectually disabled. All of the victims were children attending St Ann's Special School.

RELEVANT POINTS

1. In 1998 Perkins was located living in Queensland. However, at that time approval by the then Crime Command was not given for his extradition to this State.
2. In October 2001 and January 2002, concerns were expressed by the families of former students of St Ann's Special School to members of the Child Exploitation Investigation Section.
3. The Archbishop of Adelaide met with the Commissioner of Police on 4 March 2002. Following that meeting the Commissioner directed a task force be created to fully investigate the allegations of sexual assault by Perkins and other associates in relation to St Ann's Special School. The task force is also required to take whatever appropriate action is necessary to ensure Perkins return to this State to answer the outstanding charges.
4. The task force is led by Detective Inspector McCaffrey and includes Detectives Mosheev and Farrington with support from members of the Child Exploitation Investigation Section (Det Sgt Rodney and Det Conte). Intelligence officers, Sergeant Cathy Gregory and analyst Kathleen Hillman are assisting. For information Detectives Mosheev and Conte are

the original arresting officers of Perkins and other paedophiles (Operation Deny refers)

5. A review of the evidence collected by police in 1993 supports the charges as laid. An application to extradite Perkins was approved by A/C White and the extradition process has commenced.
6. Enquiries reveal Perkins is currently in Queensland.
7. A number of potential witnesses and other victims have been identified. As the victims all have difficulty communicating, police are enlisting the aide of experts to assist during the investigation. The information collected will be assessed and presented to the DPP for their opinion before laying further charges against Perkins.
8. Family members and carers of children who attended St Ann's Special School between 1986 – 1991 (when Perkins was employed as a bus driver) have formed a Parents Advocacy Group. Collectively they have approached the media and provided a story.
9. Anticipating some media coverage, the Catholic Church have produced an open letter to be sent to the parents/carers of all past students. A copy of this letter is attached.
10. In the afternoon of Wednesday 20 March 2002, the Archbishop of Adelaide held a press conference and provided the media with their version of events. After the press conference a male journalist approached Father David Cappo and advised 'they had tracked Perkins to an address at Gin Gin (Queensland) and intended to interview him'.
11. Whilst reviewing evidence and speaking with witnesses, all information collected relating to an allegation of corrupt conduct is being relayed to the Anti Corruption Branch.

Contact Officer: John McCaffrey
Office: Detective Inspector
Phone: **REDACTED**
Date: 20 November 2002.