

CONFIDENTIAL**MINISTERIAL BRIEFING PAPER**

SUBJECT: Arrest of Brian Perkins in Queensland 20 March 2002

BACKGROUND

In 1993, Brian Bertum Morris Perkins was arrested and charged with "taking photographs of children to satisfy a prurient interest (2 counts)", "indecent assault" and "possession of child pornography".

The offences related to two victims and occurred between 1991 and 1993.

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.

The victims were children attending the School, and one has since died.

Perkins absconded whilst on Court bail and a warrant for his arrest for the offence of 'Inciting a child to commit an indecent act' was issued in January 1994.

RELEVANT POINTS

In 1998 Perkins was located living in Queensland.

At that time, given the mental impairment of the witnesses and the likelihood of their recollection of events some 5 years after the offending, it was decided that his extradition would not be sought and the warrant would remain on file.

Queensland Police were advised of his antecedents at that time.

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 recently formed a Parents Advocacy Group.

That group identified their concerns to the SAPOL Child Exploitation Investigation Section.

Additionally, the Archbishop of Adelaide met with the Commissioner of Police on 4 March 2002.

The parent collective also approached the media about their concerns.

Anticipating some media interest, the Archbishop has produced an open letter to be sent to the parents/carers of all past students.

Following the meeting with the Archbishop, the Commissioner directed a task force, now code named 'Cormorant' be created to review the original investigation and investigate any further allegations arising from the families of the former students.

In the afternoon of Wednesday 20 March 2002, the Archbishop of Adelaide held a press conference in relation to the matter.

Perkins was arrested on the 1994 warrant by Bundaberg Police, Queensland on 20th March 2002 and he appeared in the Bundaberg Court on 21st March 2002.

He has been remanded in custody until 22nd march 2002 for a bail hearing.

South Australia Police will seek his extradition when the bail issue has been resolved.

At the time of his original arrest in 1993, Perkins was alleged to be part of a paedophile group and at that time three other members of the group were arrested by a task force and charged with similar offences arising out of the same set of circumstances.

Following those arrests a determination was made that the task force would be disbanded and that decision is the subject of a current investigation by the SAPOL Anti Corruption Branch.

Further confidential information.

A number of potential witnesses and other victims have now been identified.

As the victims all have difficulty communicating, police are enlisting the aid of experts to assist during the investigation.

The information collected will be assessed and presented to the DPP for their opinion before considering further charges against Perkins.

Contact Officer: John McCaffrey
Office: Detective Inspector
Phone: 0408 883570

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