

Synopsis of a meeting between Father David Cappo and John McCaffrey held at the Catholic Education office, 39 Wakefield St, Adelaide between 1000 & 1040 hours. 8/3/02

Introductions and outlined the purpose and terms of reference for the Task Force

Issues discussed includes:

- Strategies to handle the media. Fr Cappo advised he believes "The Australian" may have been approached by the parents advocacy group on behalf of the carers/family of paedophile victims.

Police strategy: no formal comments will be made in relation to Perkins as the matter is before the court (& unresolved). No comments can be made that may tend to identify any victim – this would include the name of the school, time period, nature of the offence, names/addresses of the suspect or any victim details (Supported by S 35 (1) SOA restrictions on the publication of legal proceedings dealing with sexual immorality/vice or indecent conduct).

I advised Fr Cappo police should not offer any advice to Catholic Education on the contents or distribution of an open letter to the parents/carers of children who attended St Ann's between 1986 – 1991. Outlined in general terms the advantages of delaying such a letter until Perkins is convicted & emphasised the decision was theirs. He advises they will send such a letter probably towards the end of next week. He will provide me with a copy.

Catholic Education strategy: Fr Cappo advises their lawyers are currently reviewing the letter to be sent to all parents/carers of children who attended St Ann's between 1986 – 1991. The focus of the letter is to advise parents/carers of the willingness of Catholic Education to assist any family. The letter will not outline any details of any previous or current police investigation. Perkins will not be mentioned by name. The letter will advise contact details for Catholic Education and advise the reader if they have any information regarding any criminal activity – to contact Crime Stoppers.

- Discussed the possible extradition of Perkins. Fr Cappo advises that family members had resigned themselves to the fact Perkins would evade justice. I advised a decision would be made after all of the available evidence is reviewed.
- Fr Cappo advises Catholic Education are planning their response to requests from families for ongoing assistance, including compensation.
- Fr Cappo plans to brief the new premier
- He will keep the police informed and will assist in any way possible.
- He has agreed to provide a statement obtained from the Headmaster of St Ann's (86-91) who has since be transferred as Catholic Education lack confidence in his ability. The headmaster alleges he sought a police clearance for Perkins and has stated the police advised Perkins had no record.

- Fr Cappo agreed to release to police any school photographs taken between 1986 - 1991