

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PAEDOPHILE INVESTIGATION

Background

Between 1986 and 1991 Brian Perkins was employed as a bus driver at the St Anns Special School, Marion. In 1993 he was arrested and charged with a number of child sexual abuse/pornography matters relating to his period of employment at the school. Perkins was subsequently granted bail by the Supreme Court and in 1993 he absconded bail and a First Instant Warrant was issued.

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.

Following recent concerns expressed by families of former students of St Anns Special School, members of the Child Exploitation Section have attended a number of meetings instigated by the Public Advocate and Catholic Education to address their concerns.

Following a meeting with the Archbishop of Adelaide the Commissioner of Police on 4 March 2002 directed that a Task Force be established to fully investigate the allegations of sexual assault by Perkins and any other associates in relation to St Anns' 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.

Objectives

A dedicated Task Force will be established as of 5 March 2002.

The Task Force will be responsible for:

1. Conducting a review of the Perkins investigations to ensure that all facts/allegations have been fully addressed and all appropriate action taken.
2. Taking action to ensure the extradition of Perkins to this State.
3. Identifying and reporting on any shortcomings of the investigation/processes and ensuring that all necessary follow-up action is undertaken.
4. Providing appropriate communication and reassurance to all victims and families.
5. Identifying and developing appropriate media strategies in relation to the investigation.
6. Liaising with the Catholic Church/Education and any other relevant body to ensure the successful completion of all investigations.
7. Undertaking any other necessary investigations in relation to Perkins or any associate(s) or network.

Responsibility

The Task Force will be responsible to the Officer in Charge, Major Crime Investigation Branch.

The Officer in Charge of the Task Force will be Detective Inspector McCaffrey.

Resources

Detective Inspector McCaffrey has the authority to recruit all necessary personnel/resources to undertake the Task Force objectives.

Media

Due to the sensitive nature of the investigation involving alleged child sexual abuse the release of information to the public and media will be strictly controlled.

Management of day-to-day media matters will be the responsibility of Detective Inspector McCaffrey.

Corporate/strategic media releases will be the responsibility of Assistant Commissioner, Crime Service.

Reports

The Officer in Charge of the Task Force will provide a brief weekly 'sit-rep' report to the Assistant Commissioner, Crime Service.

Time Frame

The Task Force will commence on 5 March 2002.



J.R.White
Assistant Commissioner
Crime Service

5 March 2002

cc: For action:
Officer in Charge, Major Crime Investigation Branch
Detective Inspector McCaffrey
Deputy Commissioner (for information)
File