

**OPERATION CORMORANT****WEEKLY REPORT****15 March 2002****Background**

Between 1986 and 1991, Brian Perkins was employed as a bus driver at the St Ann's Special School, Marion. In 1993 he was arrested and charged with a number of child sexual abuse and possession of child pornography. Police bail was opposed and after a series of remands he was granted Court bail. On 21 January 1994 he did not appear before the Adelaide Magistrates Court and a first instance 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 Ann's Special School, members of the child Exploitation Section have attended a number of meeting 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 the 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.

**Progress to date**

Operation Cormorant commenced on Monday 11 March 2002 with the following personnel:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Field Commander | Det Insp John McCaffrey                            |
| Primary Team    | Det SC Len Mosheev<br>Det SC Bernie Farrington     |
| Secondary Team  | Det Sgt Peter Rodney (Admin)<br>Det SC Wally Conte |
| Intelligence    | Sgt Cathy Gregory<br>Analyst Kathleen Hillman      |

An Operation Order, Tactical Operation Plan, Intelligence collection plan and a media strategy have been developed.

The investigation is documented on case management 02/0017, restricted to the Child Exploitation Investigation Section.

### **Research and Assessment**

- Perkins was a target of Operation Deny (1993) and was one of a network of paedophiles discovered at that time.
- The primary target is Brian Bertrum Morris Perkins (200236). His current whereabouts are not known however checks are being conducted to locate him. His last known address was 2/25 Elliott Street, Gin Gin, Queensland.
- The majority of exhibit material has been reassessed and the evidence exists to convict Perkins on the Possess Child Pornography charge.
- His extradition has been approved.
- A number of potential witnesses/victims have been identified.
- A number of associates have been identified.

### **Objectives for next week**

- Locate all exhibit material seized in 1991 & 1993.
- Liaise with parent/careers with a view to re interview potential victims
- Continue to liaise with Catholic Education.
- Locate and extradite Perkins.

### **Media**

Father David Cappo advises Catholic Education intend to send an open letter to parents/carers of children who attended St Ann's Special School between 1986 – 1991 inviting them to contact the Church if they suspect their child may have been a victim. The letter is currently being reviewed by their lawyers and may be sent out towards the end of next week,

The letter may generate some media coverage.

Members of the parents advocacy group have been liaising with Thea Williams, a journalist with "The Australian".

A media strategy has been developed along with a draft Ministerial response in anticipation of some level of media coverage.

John McCaffrey  
Operations Inspector

15 March 2002.