

UPDATE 23

Royal Commission St Ann's Special School



19 March 2014

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse continued its 9th public hearing in the case of St Ann's Special School in Adelaide today. Paedophile Brian Perkins died in jail while serving a ten year sentence for abusing three children from the school.

The Royal Commission's hearing into the case of John Ellis was adjourned yesterday and will resume in Sydney tomorrow.

Detective Sergeant Leonid Mosheev of the South Australian Police (SAPOL) continued his evidence in Adelaide today, and was asked about Perkins' bail conditions and the circumstances in which he was able to abscond after being charged in 1993.

Counsel Assisting also sought to understand the decisions made by SAPOL during the investigation of Perkins' case in 1991, 1993 and 1998.

Evidence presented today by police witnesses showed that after evading police in 1991, Perkins came to the attention of SAPOL again during an operation known as Operation Deny in August 1993. Following the seizure of evidence including photographs and video tape in raids conducted in September 1993, Operation Deny was shut down on 10 September 1993, before all the material obtained had been analysed by detectives. Perkins was arrested, but was subsequently granted bail. He absconded to Queensland and did not face court.

SAPOL officers recommended further investigation via the establishment of a further Taskforce, however this did not eventuate.

In 1998 SAPOL Detective Greg Ramm identified that Perkins was residing in Queensland. Detective Ramm gave evidence that he requested that SAPOL make an extradition request for Perkins. This request was denied by SAPOL including in part because the view was taken that the prospects of obtaining a conviction against Perkins in the circumstances were not strong.

Perkins was eventually extradited back to South Australia from Queensland in 2002 following a request from the Archbishop of Adelaide, Philip Wilson to the South Australian Police Commissioner. Archbishop Wilson also offered to pay the police costs of the extradition.

The hearing continues.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au
For information on the Royal Commission go to: <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

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