



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

7 April 1992

Dear Parent

CIVIC CHILDCARE CENTRE

In March we wrote to all parents whose children attended the Civic Childcare Centre between September 1986 and mid November 1991, to inform them of a current Police investigation of allegations of sexual abuse against a former staff member of the centre.

The letter included an invitation to attend a special meeting on 31 March 1992 to inform parents about the investigation and options available to them in regard to this matter.

We note from our records that you did not attend this meeting.

We believe that it is important that you receive the information that was presented at this meeting so that you may choose whether or not to take further action.

Enclosed is an information sheet that was provided to parents, explaining the investigation and options for advice and assistance. We urge you to read this, and to make contact with any of the people or services listed if you have any concerns about your child/children.

If you would like any further information, please contact Martin Maguire (03 711-882).

Yours faithfully

Martin Maguire
SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISER
SAL:NLK

SAL
MFM

Martin Maguire Extension 8882

LN/CD/3

CONTACT

FILE

CIVIC OFFICES • 163-173 TUAM STREET • P O BOX 237 • CHRISTCHURCH 1
NEW ZEALAND • TELEPHONE (03) 791-660 • FAX (03) 797-786



CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC CHILD CARE CENTRE INVESTIGATION

Investigation☞ The Police are currently conducting an investigation into allegations that some children who attended the creche between September of 1986 and mid November 1991, may have been sexually assaulted.

Investigation Staff.....☞ The Police Child Abuse Unit staff will be conducting this investigation and they will be assisted by Department of Social Welfare staff and in particular, staff of that Department's Specialist Services Unit.

Interviews☞ Police and Department of Social Welfare staff involved in the investigation believe that the children who are or did attend the creche between these dates, should be interviewed.

Interviews of children in the age group are not generally carried out by Police and in this particular case will not be. Staff specially trained and skilled in interviewing children will conduct all interviews. All interviews are video recorded. The interviews are conducted in a non threatening and child appropriate manner.

Choices☞ As the parent, it is for you to decide what course of action you wish to take.

Recommendation.....☞ That parents take up the offer of having their children interviewed.

Who To Contact.....☞ Parents wishing to take up this offer should telephone the Police Child Abuse Unit on:

☎ **637-955 or 637-978**

Refer to Information Chart attached.

INFORMATION CHART

For advice or assistance, firstly telephone the Police Child Abuse Unit.
☎ 637-955 or 637-978

NB: These phone lines will be available between 8.30am-4.30pm on 1/4/92 to 3/4/92. After that, phone 793-999 and ask for Child Abuse Unit



In this call, brief details **only** will be recorded so that Police can ring you back at a later date.

NB: Only brief details will be sought in this call.



Police will ring you back and discuss your situation fully if appropriate, arrangements can then be made to have your child interviewed.

NB: Police or Specialist Services staff of DSW will make contact and arrange an interview time if this seems appropriate.



After interview, the results will be fully discussed with you and recommendations made as to appropriate courses of action that can be taken.

NB: Nothing will be done without your consent and knowledge after full discussions.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Supporting Your Child

Your child may be asking questions or displaying behaviour you find hard to deal with. For advice you can contact:

START, ph. 355-4414
Megan Phillips, DSW
Specialist Services
Ph: 538-929 or 538-935

Medical Examinations

Should only be conducted on advice from the Police and by doctors specially trained in this field.

Support For Parents

You need support so you can better support your child. Parents should support each other. For advice contact:

Megan Phillips, DSW
Specialist Services
Ph: 538-929 or 538-935

Counselling and Funding

Costs involved for children can be met by ACC (Refer to ACC handout) and some may be available through the CCC. For advice contact:

CCC: Martin Maguire, 711-882
ACC: Jo Gyles, 791-408

Other Issues

The CCC or Parents Committee should be contacted for all enquiries not related to the Police investigation.

CCC: Martin Maguire, 711-882
Parents Committee:
Simon Fraser, 797-800 (Wk)

Counselling Services

There are people who are skilled and available for support and guidance but resources are limited. For advice contact:

CCC: Martin Maguire, 711-882
ACC: Jo Gyles, 791-408

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD TELLS OF HIS OR HER ABUSE

Listen: *Do not put words into a child's mouth.
Allow them to tell only as much as they want.*

Five Basic Rules:

- ❶ BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAY.
- ❷ SAY YOU'RE GLAD THEY TOLD YOU.
- ❸ SAY YOU'RE SORRY IT HAPPENED.
- ❹ LET THEM KNOW IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT.
- ❺ LET THEM KNOW YOU'LL HELP.

Let them know too that they're not the only one.

This sort of thing happens to other children too sometimes.

Do not over react.

A child's initial disclosure of sexual abuse is a critical moment. He or she will be monitoring every reaction.

Do not panic.

If the child judged you unable to handle the situation, he or she may not disclose any more of the story.

Do not criticise.

Don't say: "You should have told me sooner." or "Why did you let him?"

Ensure the child's immediate safety.

Seek advice and assistance.

Refer to information chart on previous page.

Find support for yourself.

Dealing with sexual abuse is hard, especially when it involves someone you care about. Discuss the matter with someone you feel comfortable with, someone you trust, someone who will respect the confidentiality of the situation.



ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT

Victims of rape/incest (after 1 April 1974) may lodge a claim with ACC.

To lodge a claim, the following are required:

- 1 C1 filled out - this is the ACC claim form.
- 2 First Medical Certificate - C14. This would be obtained from the doctor first informed of the sexual abuse/assault. If that occurred many years ago, this medical certificate may have to be obtained from the medical practitioner currently involved with your case.
- 3 A consent form as we will need to write to the counsellor.
- 4 Other valuable information: write on a separate sheet of paper:
 - a) A Police or Court involvement - eg: if and when charges were laid, police reports, statements made.
 - b) Names and addresses of Counsellors, medical personnel involved in your case, both voluntary and professional, eg: Rape Crisis, Psychiatrists or Psychologists.

What can be claimed for:

- 1 Counselling costs - within prescribed limitations. (M41 counselling form required from GP).
- 2 Travelling expenses to and from medical treatment (over 8kms one way).

The Christchurch City Council may also help.....

The Christchurch City Council exgratia will assist with some counselling costs.

Parents of children at the Centre who wish to undertake counselling should in the first instance contact Martin Maguire (Senior Community Development Adviser) on 711-882.

Martin will advise you on the nominated counsellors, the number of sessions available and the conditions and parameters of this assistance.

ACC may not meet all the costs of children's counselling. Some Counsellors have a surcharge. Claims of this nature may also be considered by the Council. Martin Maguire should be contacted to discuss this.