

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FAMILY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPEMENT COMMITTEE
SPRING STREET
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

20/11/2012

Dear Committee,

I am writing in the hope that you would consider my submission at this late date.

My son Paul O'Brien attended Salesian College Sunbury in 1988. His behaviour became very erratic as the year progressed. He ran away from school with 2 other boys and was missing for 3 days. The police were notified and found them at the Richmond Football Oval. The only explanation we received was that the boys were badly behaved and hard to control. Some 2 or 3 months later Paul was expelled because his behaviour was unacceptable. We could not understand at the time what was happening with Paul. After he came home we sent him to Mt. Lilydale College but he could not settle down. He was 14 years old at the time. When he was 18 yrs old he had a car accident at Worowa College in Healesville and the man that Paul knew there helped him out of the car and that was when he told him what had happened at Salesian College which in turn he told us. We then started to understand and tried to help Paul.

After a while Paul told me what had happened and how one of the Priest's which was one of his teachers called David Rapson had often raped him. He told me with tears running down his face that he was as low as could be and felt that he was not worth anything to anyone. It was the worst day, not knowing how to help him.

As time went by he tried very hard to get his life back on track, but with drugs and alcohol he never quite made it.

In January 1996 Paul died, he was 22yrs old.

If my story can help in anyway then I am willing to meet before the enquiry and tell the whole story of which there is much more than I can put on paper

Please consider my testimony from,

Maureen O'Brien

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