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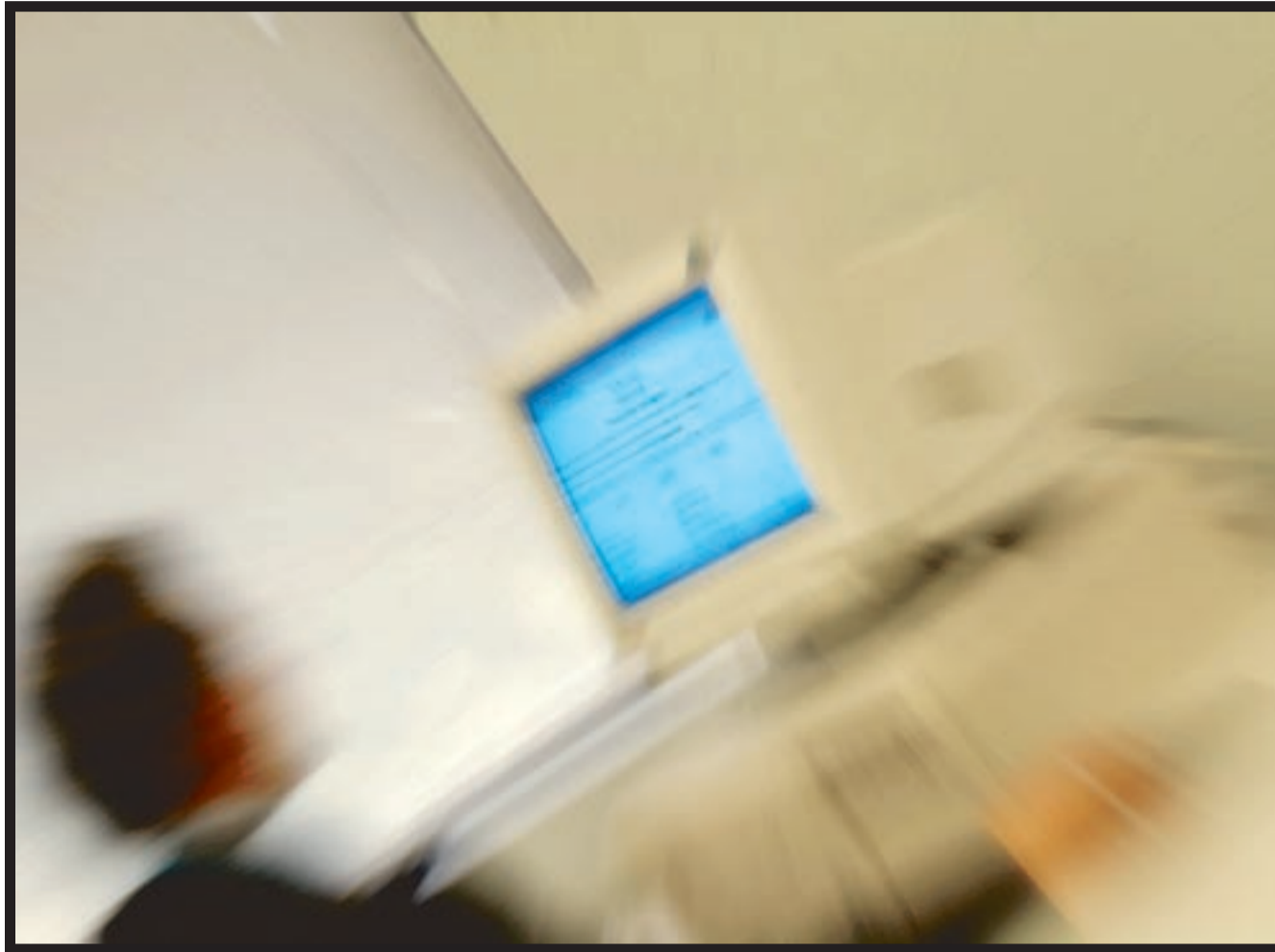
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TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2004



Dr Reina Michaelson

“This adds insult to the already grave injustice these families have been subjected to”



Identifiable details of child sexual abuse allegations were published on the Internet.

Picture: RENAE DROOP. N46ML802



Paul Chadwick

“It is difficult to imagine a more serious privacy breach than to publish on the Internet identifiable details of child sexual abuse allegations.”

Abuse site dumped

By Matt Doran

A WEBSITE containing police statements with names and addresses of the alleged victims of child sex abuse in Mornington has been shut down after action by Victorian Privacy Commissioner Paul Chadwick.

Police and Mr Chadwick launched investigations into the matter last week.

Mr Chadwick told the *Leader*: “It is difficult to imagine a more serious privacy breach than to publish on the Internet identifiable details of child sexual abuse allegations.

“I have asked the Chief

EXCLUSIVE

Commissioner of police to investigate,” he said.

Mr Chadwick said he had contacted the Internet Industry Association and service provider iPrimus to express concern about the content of the site, which was shut down last Thursday.

The material was placed on the Internet by Norman Shulver, who was at the centre of a child abuse scandal in Mornington in the early 1990s.

His wife, Alison, last week defended the decision to place the statements on the Internet, saying the people

making allegations should be held accountable.

“Let these people be accountable rather than niggling away at the bone anonymously,” she said.

“We are still fighting to clear our name and we’ve put this information online so people can see the truth.”

But Dr Reina Michaelson, a psychologist representing several victims, said the website showed “utter disregard for the dignity of the children”.

“This adds insult to the already grave injustice these families have been subjected to,” Dr Michaelson said.

The father of two toddlers allegedly abused at the Mornington Child Care

Centre and Nursery School – run by the Shulvers – said placement of the material on the Internet was “another form of abuse” to the children.

Another parent described the action as “despicable”.

Mr Shulver placed the material on the Internet in 2000 as part of his online manuscript, titled *Presumed Guilty*.

Some of the police statements in the manuscript were preceded by highly derogatory comments about the parents’ personal backgrounds including financial details, mental health assessments and marital histories.

The statements were made to police in the early 1990s by 12 parents of

toddlers who attended the childcare centre. Mr Shulver said he received the statements under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sixteen children told police at the time they had been sexually abused while attending the childcare centre.

A Department of Human Services inquiry in the early 1990s found that Mr and Mrs Shulver had “permitted the abuse to occur or were involved in that abuse”.

No police charges were laid. The Shulvers have always vehemently protested their innocence.

■ More stories, Pages 8-9.

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