

New probe in abuse case

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Investigators in 1993 stated they believed that up to 19 children from the centre had been subjected to various degrees of abuse. Medical evidence indicated that three children had been abused.

A Department of Human Services inquiry in the early 1990s found that centre owners Norman and Alison Shulver, who vehemently deny all allegations, had "permitted the abuse to occur or were themselves involved in that abuse".

No police charges were laid.

In a submission to the Crimes Compensation Tribunal in 1993, investigators said they believed "serious criminal offences had been committed".

But they said there was a lack of admissible, corroborative evidence and that the exact location of the offences and the identities of the perpetrators was not known.

Mrs Shulver last week described the reopening of the case as "a nightmare".

"We are absolutely

These allegations relate to administrative and procedural failings. There (are) no findings of corruption

innocent, but the police won't be pleased until someone has been charged. They are looking at the wrong people," Mrs Shulver said.

"Our family has to live with the constant threat of someone coming and locking us up."

Assistant commissioner for crime Simon Overland stressed that the Ombudsman's findings showed no evidence of police corruption.

"These allegations relate to administrative and procedural failings. There (are) no findings of corruption," he said.



Assistant commissioner for crime Simon Overland.

Children haunted for more than a decade

"MUMMY, did the people that did this to me go to jail?"

That's the question a mother of two children who attended the Mornington Child Care Centre and Nursery School says she has been haunted by for more than a decade.

Lucy (not her real name) remembers how painful it was to tell her young daughter that nobody had been brought to justice.

"It was just so hurtful to know that my daughter had to continue her life knowing that her predators were still out there," she said.

Lucy's two young girls, then aged three and one, attended the childcare centre in the early 1990s.

Last week, through heavy tears, Lucy said her daughters had never forgotten what they were made to do.

"My eldest daughter is

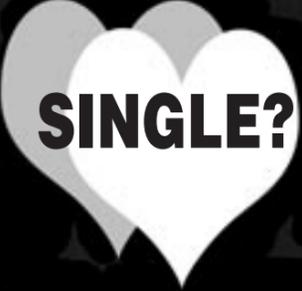
still afraid to sleep on her own and she just hasn't been able to make friends. She's had counselling on and off all her life and she's sick of it."

Lucy said the latest revelations - that the Mornington child abuse case would be reinvestigated - had left her with mixed reactions.

"I'm torn between my daughter desperately wanting justice and me wanting to let go of this whole thing," she said.

"But my daughter wants this thing to be brought to a close and for justice to be done - it's just so important for the healing process."

Lucy said her daughter was now reliving her fear, following the shocking discovery in May this year that names and addresses of children from the childcare centre had been placed on a public website.



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