

## TIMELINE OF THE PETER ELLIS CASE

### TRIAL

April – June 1993 Trial of Peter Ellis on 28 counts of child sexual abuse, following which the jury returned 16 verdicts of guilty in relation to 7 complainants.  
Ellis was sentenced to a total of 10 years imprisonment.

### APPEALS, ROYAL PREROGATIVE APPLICATIONS AND MINISTERIAL INQUIRY

#### *First appeal*

1994 appeal Ellis appealed against his convictions.  
September 1994 Court of Appeal dismissed appeal. (Three convictions relating to one child who retracted her allegations were quashed).

#### *First Royal prerogative of mercy application*

December 1997 Ellis presented a petition to the Governor-General seeking a free pardon or reference of his remaining 13 convictions back to the Court of Appeal.  
May 1998 Convictions were referred back to the Court of Appeal.  
June 1998 Court ruled that the hearing should be confined to matters raised in the Reference, rather than be conducted in the manner of a general appeal, as counsel for Mr Ellis had contended.

#### *Second Royal prerogative of mercy application*

November 1998 Ellis presented a second petition to the Governor-General seeking a Royal Commission of Inquiry into his case, and either a free pardon or for the whole case to be referred back to the Court of Appeal.  
March 1999 The Secretary for Justice sought advice from Sir Thomas Thorp on the second petition. The advice concluded that the terms of reference should be expanded.  
May 1999 Further reference to Court of Appeal on expanded grounds.

#### *Second appeal*

October 1999 Court of Appeal judgment delivered. The Court concluded that they were not persuaded that a miscarriage of justice had occurred and dismissed the appeal.

#### *Third Royal prerogative of mercy application*

October 1999 Ellis presented a third petition to the Governor-General seeking a free pardon and a Royal Commission of Inquiry into his convictions.

#### *Ministerial Inquiry*

March 2000 Right Honourable Sir Thomas Eichelbaum appointed to inquire into the Ellis case to assist in the resolution of the third royal prerogative application. Sir Thomas concluded that there were no doubts about the reliability of the children's evidence which would render the convictions as unsafe or warrant the grant of a pardon in Ellis' favour.  
Governor-General declined third application for a pardon.

### SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY

June 2003 Dr Lynley Hood, Dr Don Brash and 807 others presented a petition to Parliament requesting a Royal Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the Christchurch Civic Creche case".  
2005 Justice and Electoral Committee tabled a report on the petition which did not recommend a Royal Commission of Inquiry.