

Mother of **Cave Creek** victim wants case left

The mother of a Conservation Department worker who died with 13 others in the 1995 **Cave Creek** disaster does not want the case reopened.

Christchurch lawyer **Grant Cameron** has written to Prime Minister Helen Clark asking her to reopen the police file on the collapse of the Doc-built viewing platform in Papatūānui National Park on the West Coast.

But Linda O'Dea, whose son Stephen, a Doc field centre manager, died with 13 Tai Poutini Polytechnic students in the disaster, said what happened at **Cave Creek** could not be undone with a review.

"I don't want action taken. I wonder whether it would be best if the matter was laid to rest," she said.

Those who built the platform had to live with their consciences.

"I thought the case was dead and buried and the fact that it has come up is quite disconcerting," she said.

"Having this brought up again at this late stage is unthinkable. I would have preferred nothing to be said about **Cave Creek** again. "A review would solve some people's queries and help settle their feelings, but I find it a tad incongruous that it has raised its head in election year . . ."

Marjorie Shaw, whose son Peter, 20, was killed in the tragedy, said failure to lay criminal charges was the biggest case of injustice in New Zealand history.

A spokesman for Miss Clark's office said an official in her department was considering Mr Cameron's letter and would report back to the prime minister.

Mr Cameron said Miss Clark would be perpetuating the **Cave Creek** injustice if she did not have a retired judge look at the police file.

Detective Inspector Kevin Burrowes, who launched a homicide inquiry after the collapse, has confirmed he believed people should have faced charges for criminal negligence. --
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