

## Tranz Rail coughs up

By: BRADWELL Simon

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AN INACCURATE news report nearly ruined Morgan Jones' hopes of a settlement with **Tranz Rail**.

Morgan (8) was crippled and blinded after falling from a **Tranz Rail** train 26 months ago.

Christchurch lawyer **Grant Cameron** said a deal had only just been salvaged, despite the July 14 newspaper report that **Tranz Rail** had settled with Morgan for \$250,000.

He said the report "had it wrong. We were at a very delicate stage of negotiations then. That report was irritating and to a degree, obstructive . . .

"It did place settlement negotiations in jeopardy."

Morgan lost part of his right leg and his sight when he fell from the sightseeing platform of a train on July 2, 1994, because of a faulty safety rail.

Cameron said final settlement had only been made recently with different terms to those detailed in the Sunday Star-Times article. He could not disclose how much Morgan received because of a confidentiality agreement.

He said the incorrect report was based on talking to Morgan's father Les Jones. But he had sustained temporary brain damage in a cycling accident in June, affecting his short-term memory.

Cameron said the Jones family were pleased with the settlement. "We have received funds which have been placed in trust for Morgan," he said.

**Tranz Rail** would not comment.

The payment ends a long and bitter saga for the family.

The High Court in Wellington rejected a criminal nuisance charge against **Tranz Rail** in February.

Cameron said Les Jones' rehabilitation was also now progressing well.

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CAPTION:

NEW HOPE: Les Jones and son Morgan, before Les' accident.

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