

Payout deal yet to be finalised

By: PETERS Graeme

* **Tranz Rail** says it has reached an accord with lawyers seeking compensation for Morgan Jones, the Christchurch schoolboy severely injured after falling from a train two years ago.

However, Morgan's mother Brenda, and **Grant Cameron**, one of the Jones' family lawyers, say a compensation deal has yet to be finalised.

Tranz Rail and the family's lawyers have since February been negotiating a compensation package for Morgan, who was left blind and had one leg amputated after falling from the Coastal Pacific train in July 1994.

Tranz Rail spokesperson Helen Morgan-Banda said the discussions between **Tranz Rail** and lawyers representing the Jones family had been settled. However, Mr Cameron would not comment other than to say an agreement had yet to be reached.

Compensation for Morgan will help heal a long-running public relations sore for **Tranz Rail**, which until this year had steadfastly refused to compensate Morgan.

A charge alleging criminal negligence - Morgan fell from the train when a handrail on the gangway between a viewing platform and a carriage gave way - involving **Tranz Rail** was thrown out in the High Court at Wellington in February.

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