

INSIDE SA'S GRAND HOMES [PAGES 36-37] PLUS REAL ESTATE MAGAZINE

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Grieving mum says time wasted as she banged on a police station door could have been crucial in saving son's life

EXCLUSIVE KEN McGREGOR

GRIEVING mother Julia Trinne has lodged a formal complaint against SA Police, alleging her frantic knocks on a suburban police station on the morning her son was killed were ignored because it was

were ignored because it was not yet opening time. Ms Trinne, whose heart-breaking story has touched thousands nationwide, says she saw officers inside Norwood police station after dis-covering her four-year-old son, Luca, and then-husband David Janzow were missing.

Her complaint alleges she knocked on the door from about 7.30am until the station's opening time of 8am — when officers finally inter-

viewed her on July 8, 2014. Luca was killed by Janzow, whose mental health had spiralled into delusions telling him that his son must die. They are thought to have left the family

home about 7am. Ms Trinne, who now lives interstate, has exclusively told The Advertiser she banged on the Norwood station's doors the Norwood station's doors and rang the doorbell for at least 20 minutes, while calling friends and family to be on the lookout as well as having peo-

I could as wen as naving peo-ple search for them. "I could see people in the station but they would not open the doors because it was not opening time," she said. "I understand protocols but when it is chrising constitution

when it is obvious something major is wrong you would think surely they would be able

to realise this and act." When contacted by *The Advertiser* about the matter, SA Police would not comment and re-ferred it to the Police Ombuds man, who also declined to man, who also declined to comment on the investigation. Ms Trinne intends to de-mand a coronial inquest into

Luca's death She said her frantic concerns were not taken seriously by police staff who eventually took her report but seemed more concerned that she did not know Janzow's car regis rather than alerting tration, patrols to be on the lookout for

a Volkswagen ute in the area. "I had tears streaming down my face, and at one point even crouched down in the corner of the station and was very distressed with, what I believe, was a lack of empathy and lack of professional and appropri-ate action," she said.

"The lack of response to my concerns, desperation, and ap-parent emotions, as even a human being in that room, let alone being a police officer, not responding to me in that distress . . . the reaction and response that I was given was not adequate.

"I was calling people (fam-ily and friends), I was getting dressed at the same time to go to the local police station.

"I hazily remember briefly thinking about calling triple-0 but... I just thought if I could quickly get to the police sta-tion and talk to the police in person then that would be the best option. They were only a couple of minutes up the road."

She said she wasn't just standing at the police station's doors – she was actively trying to find her husband and son by seeking the officers' help and calling anyone who might be able to find them. Janzow was arrested after he approached a police patrol, who were attending an unrelated car accident, about 8.40am and informed them what he had done.

Ms Trinne said the minutes wasted helplessly banging on the station doors could have een crucial in saving Luca's life. She said she was taken to

hospital with family members after police told her they would not be able to get her there any quicker.

"I'm not saying that it was a malicious act by the police at the station," she said.

"I'm suggesting, at a mini-mum, that it was a lack of being able to identify an extremely distressed person and to act appropriately and quickly in



situation. "Should given you have to teach police officers, to respond empathically, appropriately and profession-ally in such a situation? I thought that would have come with the job, to be honest

Her prized photos of her gorgeous Luca, which were stored on her laptop, were also not returned to her by police until February this year - three until February this year – three months after Janzow's court matters were finalised.

Ms Trinne said she had laid the complaint to ensure officers were correctly trained to deal with urgent and potentially horrific circumstances where they arise and to fight for a more empathetic and comprehensive treatment for

LACK OF EMPATHY: Julia Trinne has lodged a complaint over what she says was a police refusal to open their station as she tried to report the disappearance of her four-year-old son Luca, above, who was killed by his father. Picture: LUKE MARSDEN

victims of significant crimes. She said support for her was inadequate at a time when her

shock and grief was greatest. "It felt as if the world had stopped," she said. "Upon leaving the hospital, I was given a box of tissues and the above surveys of a court the phone number of a counsellor but that was it really.

Ms Trinne said she com-plained about her initial treatment on the day her blue-eyed boy died, reiterated it in the days following and then lodged a complaint in writing six months later. She said it then took another 15 months for police to even properly ac-knowledge the complaint. Ms Trinne hopes an inquest will

investigate all aspects of the incident, including the lead up to her husband's deterioration, his psychiatric treatment before Luca's death, as well as their contact with the state's mental health system. The Supreme Court ordered

Janzow liable to supervision for the rest of his life, and he's likely to remain in a secure psychiatric facility for the foresee-able future. The order will be periodically reviewed. SA Police have proposed slashing the hours of several police sta-tions, including Norwood, as part of widespread changes in response to budget cuts. PAGE 54: EDITORIAL

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