

No leads in search

VICTORIA MacDONALD

A REWARD offer for information about the whereabouts of a missing Highton man has so far failed to generate any fresh leads.

Daniel O'Keeffe's family announced the reward a week ago, 14 days after the 24-year-old vanished from his parents' Summerhill Tee home on July 15.

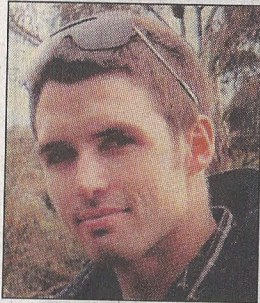
Parents Des and Lori O'Keeffe met with police yesterday afternoon for an update about the progress of the search for their son, but the officers had no new information.

As part of National Missing Persons Week, which ends today, Victoria Police revealed more than 7000 people disappeared across the state last year.

Mrs O'Keeffe said the figure was devastating.

"It is heartbreaking to know that so many other people are experiencing the same thing that we're going through," she said.

"I've had a lot of experiences in my life and I've had difficult experiences but I know of nothing that compares to not knowing where your child is - nothing; knowing that they might be lost or sick or hurt.



Daniel O'Keeffe

"I've never felt so helpless in my life."

Mrs O'Keeffe said Daniel's disappearance had taken its toll on the family as the search entered its third week.

"We're not coping very well," she said.

"It's testing our strength, our reserve as a family.

"We just know our son and brother wouldn't do this. He loved us all so much and I know that if he could get home, he would get home."

But Mrs O'Keeffe said she refused to give up hope her son would make it back.

"I'll never give up hope," she said.

Police have asked anyone who sees Daniel to contact 000 immediately.

Supporters can log on to dancomehome.com