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Dear Old Xaverians

We write to you with news of an important initiative that we have launched with the 'In Good Faith Foundation' to better respond to the needs of Old Xaverians who were sexually abused during their time at the College.

For many, this is a difficult and painful matter, but is one that we must own and be proactive in responding to for it is inextricably entwined with the care of all Xaverians and is central to our mission and values.

Xavier College has established a Charter of Cooperation with the In Good Faith Foundation, an external body that provides case management and advocacy services to survivors, families and communities impacted by institutional abuse. Their team coordinates referrals for mental health care, legal representation, police liaison, social welfare and pastoral support.

Xavier has been working closely with the Society of Jesus in these arrangements, and the Society is fully supportive of this initiative, as we both share a commitment to the support of survivors of abuse and providing opportunities for healing.

Both the College and the In Good Faith Foundation acknowledge the deep impact that institutional abuse and betrayal of trust have had on our communities and the resulting trauma that continues to be felt today. The purpose of the relationship between the College and the In Good Faith Foundation is to improve outcomes and facilitate care and healing for survivors, families and communities affected by institutional abuse.

In 2015 the In Good Faith Foundation assisted the College to engage with survivors and the student body through consultation, guidance and support, to apologise to, and establish a lasting memorial for, those Xaverians who were sexually abused at the College.

This Charter of Cooperation extends on this acknowledgement and apology with a focus on tangible actions centred on meaningful accompaniment and the holistic care of survivors.

Responding to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, former Provincial Fr Brian McCoy SJ highlighted the collective need to do better in engaging with and responding to survivors, from listening to accompanying them into the future.

The elements of engagement and accompaniment are at the core of our desire and commitment to care for all Xaverians. As you would be well familiar, our understanding of *cura personalis* is central to our Jesuit perspective in education and life. This care requires a responsiveness that displays

awareness, discernment and action drawn from the desire to make a difference. It does not have a time-limit and it cannot avoid journeying into challenging and uncomfortable places.

The Royal Commission noted that many survivors face a complex set of challenges and, at various times, require the assistance of mainstream and specialist services, such as the In Good Faith Foundation, to help to manage the detrimental impacts of abuse on their mental health and other areas of their lives.

Those who have suffered abuse and trauma through past experiences need a safe place to tell their story. This is so often the first step in reclaiming their lives. Often, redress has centred on legal recourse – a difficult and often lonely journey. While an entirely appropriate matter to address, the human condition and the fundamental care for the person, especially for those who have suffered life-changing trauma, can unintentionally appear to be of secondary importance.

We are conscious that this is not an easy subject to address. We are aware that this unconscionable experience of abuse has not been known, seen or experienced by so many Old Xaverians who have significantly different and far happier and positive memories of the College.

We can never shy away from the simple truth of what is right is right, and what is wrong is wrong. That people suffered abuse is wrong. That we should stand with them and their care is right.

Faith can be restored and better outcomes achieved through deep listening, personal and collective humility and vulnerability, sincere apology, and a demonstrable willingness to accompany all people, regardless of their circumstance. We adjust in the present by learning from the past so as to do better in the future.

It is our hope that this partnership with the In Good Faith Foundation, who we commend to those who may be in need, will positively contribute to these outcomes, and that we might be able to more fulsomely care for and accompany all past Xaverians, and in particular those who have so unacceptably suffered the scourge of sexual abuse.

May we continue to find further ways of embracing our fellow Xaverians, better ways of achieving fulfilment in Christ, ongoing ways of being men and women for and with others.



William Doherty  
**Principal**



Fr Chris Middleton SJ  
**Rector**



Tony Nunan  
**Chair of Board**