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Dear College Community

Xavier College has been mentioned in media on a matter regarding allegations against Celso Romanin SJ while at Burke Hall in the 1960s.

As the matter is before the court, it is not appropriate to discuss the specifics of the case.

That said, Xavier College with the Society of Jesus remains entirely supportive of any of our students who have experienced abuse in the past. Further, we are equally determined to uphold absolute quality in our present and future child safe environment and culture.

Having watched the recent Royal Commission, it is reprehensible that these matters transpired in our society across many different organisations, including our own. We are dismayed that matters of abuse occurred or may not have been acted upon at the time. The College will not allow matters such as this to be ignored or not be actioned where any matter comes to light.

Abuse, in any form, has no part at Xavier, nor should it in any part or section of society. What has occurred in the past regarding sexual or physical abuse is by no means a measure of our current high standards and expectations in our teaching and care or of how we uphold our responsibilities for our students.

We value and support the numerous and ongoing efforts made across the College, by staff and by students, in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students and in advancing our understanding and perceptions of healthy masculinity and of respectfulness to all, in particular women. We have also taken strong measures to implement increased student voice across the College. This is in conjunction with our strong culture of giving back, exemplified through our extensive Ignatian service for others, especially those in need or on the margins, that remains at the core of our Jesuit and College values and mission. As highlighted in recent correspondence, our Year 12 Class of 2019 contributed approximately 21,500 hours through their past four years. This is who we are, what we are about and just some of the actions we take to form good young men who will be 'men for others' and prepared to make a positive contribution to society.

Our sympathy and concern rest with anyone who has experienced abuse. We are committed to owning our past and being the best we can be in our present and future.

Yours sincerely

William Doherty  
Principal

Fr Chris Middleton SJ  
Rector