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2 December 2020

To our Staff, Parents, Old Ignatians and all in our Saint Ignatius' College Riverview Community,

I am writing to you with regard to an article which appeared in The Australian newspaper overnight. This article has misrepresented the College's open response to the tragic abuse of students in the past which we accept, publicly acknowledge and fully own as a regrettable part of the Riverview history.

It is a response which has been led with compassion, honesty and transparency by our Principal Dr Paul Hine, and as Chair of the Board I write to you to reinforce our support for the approach that Paul has taken.

In March of 2015 the Principal issued a letter to the College Community informing that he had received an allegation about historical child abuse. In that correspondence the Principal encouraged any former student who had information about child abuse at the College to come forward to report matters and seek support.

Indeed every allegation received by the College is immediately reported to the Police, as occurred in this instance.

In every year since 2015 the Principal has written to our College Community to reiterate the following, fundamental principles:

- If any person has any evidence of criminal conduct at the College – no matter how long ago it may have occurred – they should report that to the Police.
- That any person who has experienced abuse at the College, should come forward in the manner and timing of their own choosing.
- Encouraging those who have experienced abuse to use one of the pathways available to them including through the College, the Province or now independently through the National Redress Scheme.

These many communications from 2015-2020 to our Community are supported by our own actions in reporting any allegation to the Police and other authorities, as well as the Province of the Australian Society of Jesus.

The history of the College's response to historic abuse matters was provided to The Australian in great detail with a request that it be made available in full to their readers.



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The Australian chose not to do this and made no reference to the multiple communications to our Community on these matters since 2015. I have [attached](#) the full response provided and this is also publicly available on our website.

The damage caused to lives as a result of abuse suffered as a child, is profound, deep and often lifelong.

We openly and willingly recognise that students at the College were abused by those charged with their care, and we shine a light on this tragic part of our history so that those who have suffered can seek support and redress.

Our obligation to them also extends to ensuring that nothing we do can in any way compromise any criminal investigation or prosecution being undertaken to bring perpetrators to account.

The College has an unshakeable commitment to continue to work with any person who has experienced abuse at Riverview in a manner that brings them support, redress and hopefully justice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Mackay'.

Gregory Mackay  
Chair of the Board