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Dear Member of the College Community,

I am sorry I must interrupt the school holidays so close to Christmas, however, the circumstances demand I do so.

Today the Province has announced the findings of the Warren Review into the circumstances surrounding the move of former Jesuit brother Victor Higgs from St Ignatius' College Athelstone to St Ignatius' College, Riverview in 1970.

In January 2016 Victor Higgs was found guilty of two counts of indecent assault against two students at St Ignatius' College, Athelstone between 1968 and 1970.

In November 2018 Victor Higgs was found guilty of 16 offences committed against students at Riverview between 1971 and 1981. (To view this communication, please click [here](#)).

In summary, the Honourable Marilyn Warren found that:

- At least three complaints were made to the then Rector (of St Ignatius' College, Athelstone), Fr Frank Wallace SJ, regarding Higgs' conduct at Athelstone.
- The substance of at least some of these complaints was conveyed to the then Provincial, Fr Francis Peter Kelly SJ, prior to Higgs' movement.
- The fact of these complaints was a factor in the decision to move Higgs from Athelstone to Riverview in 1970.

The full statement from the Provincial of the Australian Society of Jesus can be read [here](#).

That a member of the Province – against whom complaints were known at another school – was then consequently moved to St Ignatius' College, Riverview, is profoundly shocking and a shameful indictment of how these matters were handled in the past.

The College acknowledges the impact of this news on our Community and most significantly on those who suffered criminal abuse committed by Victor Higgs during their time at Riverview.

These brave men came forward to report the abuse they had suffered and which led to the conviction of Victor Higgs in 2018.

The College reiterates our unreserved apology to them that these events were ever allowed to occur and for the hurt, suffering and pain that resulted.

The findings of the Warren Review will inevitably stir up painful memories and to that end a large number of support services are available in NSW and can be found on the National Redress Scheme website <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/support/explore/nsw-redress-support-services>

The evidence presented to the Royal Commission makes clear that those who have experienced abuse as children take years, many times decades, to come forward and tell their story of what happened to them.

To that end I again gently encourage any former student of Riverview who has experienced abuse during their time here, to come forward in the manner and timing of their own choosing.

There are a number of pathways available including contacting either myself on 0456 808 132 or the Director of Professional Standards for the Australian Society of Jesus on 03 9810 7312.

For any person not wishing to contact the Province or College, independent assistance is available by contacting the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 or through their website on www.nationalredress.gov.au

I encourage anyone who may have any evidence of criminal conduct or associated information - no matter how long ago it may have occurred – to forward that to the Police by contacting Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

In conjunction with the Province, the College Board and leadership will continue to review practices, policies and culture in light of the Warren Report, which was delivered to the Provincial last Friday. This is particularly in context of the continuing appropriateness of the naming of the Wallace Building in light of the findings made.

The news released by the Province today will take some time to absorb and the College will continue to respond as needed.

I extend our care and compassion to those who have suffered so greatly as a result of the abuse committed against them and I want them to know that the entire College Community stands with them.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Paul Hine
Principal