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ABN 68 621 312 990

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Dear Member of the College Community,

As Principal I have always made it my priority to be transparent with our College Community – both past and present – on the undeniable legacy of past abuse that is tragically a part of our College's history.

It is with great sadness that I have to write to you again on such matters.

It is my understanding that charges against two Jesuits will be heard in a Sydney Court tomorrow in relation to allegations of abuse against students said to have occurred at Riverview in the 1970's. It is expected that the court proceedings in these matters will continue well into 2021 and at this time we are unable to comment further on what is before the courts.

More broadly I would like to make the following points.

In my years as Principal I have worked with a number of survivors of abuse experienced at Riverview and I have seen firsthand both the enormous suffering these events that have caused these men, as well as the extraordinary bravery and courage they have displayed in telling their stories.

I want to recognise the hurt and pain caused to those who have experienced abuse as children and the impact of it on their lives.

On behalf of the College I reiterate to them and their loved ones the unreserved apology of the <u>Province</u> and the College that such abuse occurred.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge any person who may have any evidence of criminal conduct – no matter how long ago it occurred - to take that information to their local Police or contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

I also want to take this opportunity to again urge any person who may have experienced abuse at the College to come forward in both the timing and manner of their own choosing. There are a number of pathways including:

- a) The National Redress Scheme which provides an independent path for the survivors of institutional abuse as children and can be contacted on 1800 737 377 or www.nationalredress.gov.au
- b) The Professional Standards Office of the Australian Society of Jesus on (03) 9810 7300 or <a href="mailto:professionalstandards@sjasl.org.au">professionalstandards@sjasl.org.au</a>
- c) Directly to me as Principal on 02 9882 8278 or principal@riverview.nsw.edu.au

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me and I will keep you informed on the progression of these matters as they unfold and as it is appropriate to do so.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Paul Hine

Principal