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3 February 2020

Dear Member of the College Community,

I am writing to you again in relation to the former Jesuit Brother Victor Higgs, found guilty of committing abuse at both Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview and also at Saint Ignatius' College, Athelstone in South Australia.

Today the Provincial of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus has released the full report of the Review it commissioned into the circumstances surrounding the movement of Victor Higgs within the Australian Province and specifically from Adelaide to Sydney.

This report is available on the Province website and I encourage you to read it. (<https://jesuit.org.au/independent-review-into-the-movement-of-victor-higgs/>)

In December 2019 the Province publicly released a summary of the Review and on which I wrote to you at the time to advise you of the findings that:

1. Three (3) complaints about Victor Higgs had been made to the Rector of Athelstone Fr Frank Wallace SJ;
2. That the substance of at least some of these complaints were conveyed to the then Provincial Fr Frances Peter Kelly SJ; and,
3. That these complaints were a factor in the decision to move Victor Higgs to Riverview in 1970.

After being moved to Riverview, Victor Higgs abused students at Riverview and was found guilty in November 2018 of 16 criminal offences committed between 1971 and 1981 (to view this communication, please [click here](#)).

Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview acknowledges the release of the full report of the review by the Provincial is a step in bringing transparency and public acknowledgement of the circumstances that enabled the abuse of students by Victor Higgs to occur here at Riverview and elsewhere.

As I wrote to you in December 2019 and I reiterate again today:

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

It is clear that former students of this College were abused by Victor Higgs and have suffered enormously as a result of that failure.

I witnessed their pain and suffering at the sentencing of Victor Higgs and I apologise again to our Old Boys, their families and loved ones on behalf of the entire Riverview Community.

I also gently encourage any former students who may have experienced abuse at Riverview to come forward at the time and in the manner of their own choosing. I assure that you will be met with care and compassion in an environment of open and transparent acceptance of the shameful reality that enabled such abuse to occur.

The Board of Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview continues to consider the report and its conclusions, the implications of those for our College and any further actions we may need to take. I will update you further on these matters as appropriate.

Assistance and support is available in a range of ways and I refer to our previous statement (to view this communication please [click here](#)), which outlines the options available.

I am available to any parent, guardian and former student to discuss these matters further and can be contacted on 0456 808 132.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Hine', written in a cursive style.

Dr Paul Hine
Principal