

## Charges Laid Against Former Jesuit Brother

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31 January 2017

Dear Members of the College Community,

We are saddened to inform you that Mr Victor Higgs, a former Jesuit Brother has recently been extradited to New South Wales and will today appear in court to face charges relating to offences allegedly committed at St Ignatius' College, Riverview between 1971 and 1981, when he was a teacher.

In February 2016, Mr Higgs was incarcerated in South Australia after pleading guilty to charges of child sexual abuse that occurred between 1968 and 1970, when he taught at St Ignatius' College, Adelaide. Mr Higgs left the Jesuits in 2001.

These new charges relate to historic abuse allegations between 1971 and 1981 and do not involve any current teacher or student at St Ignatius' College, Riverview.


St Ignatius' College and the Australian Jesuit Province strongly condemns any abuse of children or young people and offers an unreserved apology for the trauma caused by any Jesuit, lay staff member or volunteer who betrayed others in this way. St Ignatius' College is a safe place for all students and is fully compliant with all mandated government requirements, backed by stringent child protection policies and training of staff.

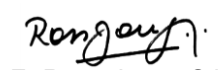
We encourage anyone with evidence of criminal behaviour committed in our ministries to report the matter to the police so an appropriate investigation can be undertaken. The NSW Police can be contacted on the Crime Stoppers Hotline (1800 333 000).

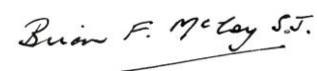
We are committed to supporting victims of abuse with dignity and compassion if and when they choose to come forward. We encourage those who have any information or knowledge of any matter associated with child abuse to make contact with Dr Paul Hine, Principal of St Ignatius' College on 0455 231 777 or Mr Simon Davies, Director of Professional Standards for the Australian Jesuit Province on (03) 9810 7312.

As the matter is now the subject of a judicial proceeding we are unable to comment further at this time.

We must never forget the crimes committed against children and young people and we will continue to work together to support survivors.

  
Dr Paul Hine  
Principal

  
Fr Ross Jones SJ  
Rector

  
Fr Brian F McCoy  
Provincial