



Friday 21 June 2024

Media Statement re: Healing Historical Harm in response to query from the *Geelong Advertiser*

Background

The School was contacted by the *Geelong Advertiser* regarding allegations of historical sexual abuse dating back to the late 1960s. As a guiding principle, the School does not comment on individual survivors, their claims, and the nature, merits, decisions, procedural steps within and/or the outcome of their claims. This is a choice for the survivor; the School respects their right to choose to share such information. The School continues to learn and iterate in its work with survivors. The School uses lessons from the past to inform and challenge current responses to student safeguarding.

Statement supplied to the *Geelong Advertiser*

"I am deeply saddened that some members of our Geelong Grammar School community face significant challenges due to the ongoing impact of the crimes of the past.

In recent years, our School has been working to provide an authentic and trauma-informed response to survivors of sexual abuse.

Whilst we cannot undo the failures of the past, together we can acknowledge the harm and recognise the pain caused.

We remain committed to supporting and enabling a culture which fortifies against such devastating harms, and places student safeguarding, and the strengthening and enablement of student voice, at its core."

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