



**GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL®**  
EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Thursday 29 October 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School (GGS),

**Keeping Children Safe: Registration and Regulation of School Boarding Premises  
*Education and Training Reform Amendment (Regulation of Student Accommodation) Bill 2020* (the Bill)**

The School welcomes yesterday's announcement by the Honourable James Merlino, Victorian Minister for Education, that the Bill has passed in the Upper House, paving the way for requirements to be implemented next year as part of reforms to keep Victorian children safe.

This Bill provides new laws for the registration and regulation of school boarding premises which will be rolled out in 2021. The Bill expands the functions and powers of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to include the registration and regulation of school boarding premises. The changes mean the School's boarding premises will be required to comply with registration requirements similar to those that apply to day schools, including in child safety and managing the risk of child abuse. Our School values this oversight and applauds all efforts to keep young people safe.

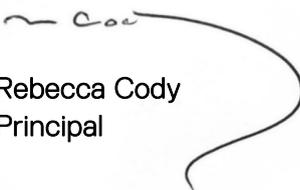
Geelong Grammar awaits the development and publication by the VRQA of guidelines for our school boarding premises, which will detail what is required to meet the standards. In the interim, the School continues its work to review and draft updated Boarding Services Policies and Procedures in accordance with the GGS Boarding Services Framework devised upon the Australian Standard (AS 5725 2015) Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences.

Since the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which identified boarding schools as a high-risk environment for students, our School has been strengthening practices to keep our student safe; we remain committed to providing a child safe environment across all endeavours.

The Bill introduces a new rigour for the regulation of school boarding premises, whereby compliance with the Child Safe Standards will consolidate and build on the work which the School has already undertaken to keep our students safe. As Minister Merlino announced, "The passing of this Bill means that we're delivering on this important recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to make sure we keep children safe."

The School maintains its unwavering commitment to the prioritisation of child safety and to exceeding the rigour of such compliance obligations in order to safeguard those children in our care.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rebecca Cody  
Principal