



Friday 10 July 2020

**Media Statement re: JobKeeper in response to query from the *Herald Sun***

**Background:** Geelong Grammar School met the eligibility criteria for the temporary JobKeeper Payment scheme for businesses significantly affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). Not-for-profits (NFPs) are entitled to JobKeeper payment to help them pay their employees if they have faced a 30% fall in turnover (for an aggregated turnover of \$1 billion or less). GGS is predominantly a boarding school - 78% of our secondary students are boarders - and was unable to charge Term 2 boarding fees, in addition to providing tuition fee deductions of up to 25% across Prep-Year 12.

“Geelong Grammar is following Australian Taxation Office advice that it is appropriate for schools to be subject to the same JobKeeper eligibility criteria as other organisations affected by the significant economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Australia’s largest coeducational boarding school, with a student composition representing every state and territory, as well as 16 overseas countries, we have been acutely impacted by the inability to provide residential learning for our students. Our operations will continue to be affected adversely until we are able to resume our usual services, fee structures and billing cycle, and our students are all able to return for on campus learning and living. Consistent with many other enterprises, we would be negligent not to take all appropriate steps to support our employees.

The School employs more than 800 full-time and part-time staff (including casuals and contractors) and makes a meaningful economic contribution to our local communities in Geelong, Mansfield and Melbourne.”

**Rebecca Cody**  
Principal

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