



Monday 29 May 2023

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

Media Statement re: Healing Historical Harm in response to query from ABC TV's *Four Corners*

Background

The School was contacted by ABC TV's *Four Corners* program regarding research it was conducting on institutions seeking permanent stays in trials involving allegations of historical sexual abuse. 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. We continue to learn and iterate in our work with survivors; Geelong Grammar School seeks to uphold their agency, and a personal apology for the harm endured continues to be offered to those who choose to engage in this way. The School uses lessons from the past to inform and challenge current responses to student safeguarding.

The following statement was supplied to ABC TV's *Four Corners*:

"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.

Geelong Grammar School apologises to survivors for harms suffered and respects the privacy of survivors and their families by not commenting on individual claims or settlements reached."

Rebecca Cody

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