



Monday 4 March 2024

## **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 for a program about Cranbrook School and its Headmaster, Mr Nicholas Sampson (GGs Principal 2000-04). *Four Corners* was specifically seeking comment from the School regarding Mr Sampson's 2004 handling of allegations of historical sexual abuse, which was the subject of a public hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Childhood Sexual Abuse in 2015. The School's current management team was not involved in these matters.

As a guiding principle, the School will 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 ABC TV's *Four Corners***

"Geelong Grammar School is committed to a compassionate and proactive response to survivors of historical sexual abuse. We recognise and acknowledge the failings of the past, the harm done, and the ongoing pain caused. As a school, we are steadfastly committed to student safeguarding. We honour student safety, care and wellbeing, and prize the strengthening and enablement of student voice and agency.

Following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Childhood Sexual Abuse, we know our survivors still face significant challenges. Our Healing & Hope response has been designed to provide support in addressing these challenges and the ongoing impact of the abhorrent crimes of the past.

Speaking up is part of the healing process for some of our survivors; we respect their courage and right to be heard. Our survivors are us; we have a significant responsibility to learn from them; such learnings inform the care of our students today and into the future. In upholding the privacy of our survivors and their families, we do not comment on their individual circumstances or claims; however, we acknowledge their right to do so."

**Rebecca Cody**

Principal

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#### **Senior School**

50 Biddlecombe Avenue  
Corio, Victoria, Australia 3214  
T +61 3 5273 9200

seniorschool@ggs.vic.edu.au

#### **Timbertop® Campus**

Private Mail Bag, Mansfield  
Victoria, Australia 3722  
T +61 3 5733 6777  
F +61 3 5733 6789

timbertop@ggs.vic.edu.au

#### **Middle School**

50 Biddlecombe Avenue  
Corio, Victoria, Australia 3214  
T +61 3 5273 9231

middles@ggs.vic.edu.au

#### **Toorak Campus**

14 Douglas Street, Toorak  
Victoria, Australia 3142  
T +61 3 9829 1444

toorakcampus@ggs.vic.edu.au

#### **Bostock House Campus**

139 Noble Street, Newtown  
Victoria, Australia 3220  
T +61 3 5221 7760  
F +61 3 5273 9683

bostock@ggs.vic.edu.au