



**TRINITY
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL, KEW**

17 August 2018

Dear School Community

Overnight, School Council resolved in-principle to enlist Trinity Grammar as a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme.

The National Redress Scheme (NRS) provides support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. It is a government-led response to the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The decision to register with the NRS is a clear statement about where we sit on the issue of child sexual abuse. It is abhorrent, and we acknowledge the catastrophic impact it has on the lives of those abused, and their friends and families. There is no place for it at Trinity and, indeed, anywhere in our society.

In recent days, the school reached settlement with a survivor of sexual abuse perpetrated by former Trinity teacher and child abuser Christopher Howell. As acknowledged previously, the school made an error of judgment when it praised Howell in correspondence to the school community in 2016. Trinity maintains its deep and unreserved apology to anyone who was upset, distressed or angered by the position taken at the time.

We have reached out to the survivor to let him know about our renewed approach and enrolment in the NRS.

It is intended that Trinity's participation in the NRS will be coordinated through the Anglican Church of Australia's recently established independent and incorporated entity, the Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited, allowing for a single point of engagement with the NRS.

In coming to this decision, School Council has considered deeply how Trinity has dealt with instances of child abuse at the school in the past, and how the school's response could be improved.

Council is unanimous in its determination to ensure there is a simple, compassionate and confidential resolution process for anyone impacted by child sexual abuse. We believe that the NRS provides an appropriate mechanism for victims to have their experience acknowledged and redress provided as they enter a healing process.

Trinity will invest the necessary resources to ensure effective involvement in the NRS and it will remain a priority of School Council moving forward. More information on Trinity's participation in the NRS will be provided in the coming weeks and months, as the school works through an application process.

TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KEW

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As we go about managing past acts of child abuse, we will be guided by the school's values of truth, integrity, courage and service. The safety and wellbeing of current, former and future students is our absolute priority, and always will be. Any allegations of abuse within our community are deeply concerning and very upsetting, and the school is resolute in ensuring swift and appropriate action.

Trinity has strict and clear policies and procedures relating to reports of abuse and we continue to encourage anyone who has grievances or concerns to contact our Headmaster, Mr Phil De Young directly and, if appropriate, relevant authorities.

Yours sincerely



John Gillam
Chairman of School Council



Phil De Young
Headmaster