



Message from CEO/Principal

Over the past week many of you may have read and heard disturbing stories from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to child sexual abuse about the abuse of children in a number of different disability service providers.

As part of this hearing the Commission is investigating some historical allegations of sexual abuse at Mater Dei in the early 1990s.

While the cases were nearly 30 years ago we listened attentively and with great empathy to the evidence, including from the mother of a former child at the school.

The story of the abuse of her child in 1991 was very difficult to listen to and our prayers and thoughts are with her and her family during this very difficult time.

While the management and governance of our school is now completely different to how it was in the early 1990s we are always looking for ways in which we can improve our services.

I wish to assure all parents of students at our school and our wider Mater Dei community that we currently have in place the most stringent child protection policies and child safe practises and that we operate in complete accordance with all state government requirements.

We are committed to providing the highest quality education and services to our students and their families in a safe and supportive environment.

Our thoughts at this very difficult time are with all survivors of child sexual abuse and we pray that the Royal Commission process will help them in their healing.

During this hearing and in the lead up to it we have fully cooperated with the Commission, provided all documents and materials it has requested and fully support the Commission's work.

It is our hope that our involvement with this hearing will assist the Commission in its deliberations and the development of its final recommendations.

Tony Fitzgerald
CEO/Principal