



A School of the
Anglican Church
of Australia

June 14, 2000

Circular Letter to Past Students of St Paul's School

Dear Past Student,

We are writing to past students of St Paul's School in connection with the very serious matters which have been reported in the Brisbane press regarding the actions of a former staff member of St Paul's, Mr Kevin Lynch. We have already written similarly to all current parents, and separately communicated with current students.

Mr Lynch was employed as the Counsellor at the School from early 1989 until his death in January 1997.

The School received no information or complaint of any improper behaviour by Mr Lynch until the time of his death. It is true that since his death the School has received both directly, and more recently through the media, reports of grossly improper behaviour by him during his employment. It is also true that over this period the School, through the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, has been actively working with students and parents who have approached us or the Diocese about these issues, or who were identified by our investigations as having been affected by them.

Virtually all of those who have come forward prior to the recent publicity have sought resolution of their concerns expressly (and understandably) on the basis that the circumstances were not made public. These wishes have been respected. Reports that have been made have been acted upon. Assistance provided by the School and the Diocese has included counselling from sources external to the School, and other appropriate support. Different students have looked for help in different ways.

As a past student, you will know that St Paul's has always had a paramount concern for the safety and security of its students. Ultimately it is the genuine and repeated demonstration of this concern which establishes any school's reputation. Consequently, the matters reported to us or the Diocese have been accepted at face value, and addressed both with the utmost gravity, and also with sensitivity to the needs of those affected.

It is a matter of serious concern and of great regret to us that these issues were not identified at the time, and that the policies and programs set in place to protect students against such experiences failed to detect them. We are sorry for this. Some of the reported stories reveal why some felt unable to come forward earlier, despite opportunities for them to do so over the past three years.

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

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Some now feel guilt that they may have contributed to the sufferings of others. This additional burden is also keenly felt by us.

Some students have found relief in the publicity which has now occurred, but others have expressed their bitter disappointment that they are now being forced to publicly relive situations which they felt they had successfully resolved.

It may be that you have continuing concerns regarding this situation. In this case you should report them immediately to the Headmaster, or some other Senior Staff Member, the Chairman of the St Paul's School Council, or the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. The Diocese has an established protocol in place to deal with such matters, and a special number for use in cases of alleged sexual harassment or abuse: 1800 252 202.

Any reported concerns will be considered and responded to promptly, and on a confidential basis with a view to addressing just, equitable and supportive solutions.

The continuing media reports have been disturbing to the whole School community, as the matters which have been reported are themselves disturbing and tragic. We share with those of you affected the feelings of hurt, anguish and betrayal, and pray that matters can be properly put right for you.

We have received many messages of support from throughout the School family, and we are reassured by the obvious concern its members have for each other, regardless of when they were associated with our School.

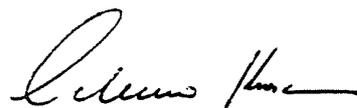
You will know from many sources, including the latest *St Paul's Gazette*, that there are many positive things always happening at St Paul's. These cannot occur without the ongoing care and overriding concern of our staff at all levels for our students and their welfare. Many staff of the School, who served with Mr Lynch, feel a particular burden of betrayal by someone they trusted as a colleague.

Please continue to support them however you can.

Yours sincerely,



Gilbert Case
Headmaster



Andrew Knox
Chairman, The St Paul's School Council