



ST PAUL'S SCHOOL
Building Today's Achievers

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2000



Anglican
Church of Australia

At the time of writing the Chermside gunman (Nigel Parodi) is still at large. Wednesday's *Courier-Mail* reported an allegation that he had been abused by a teacher while at Brisbane Grammar School, and it has been assumed that the teacher concerned was Kevin Lynch. Max Howell, Headmaster of BGS at the time, was reported as saying that no complaints were received about the conduct of the unnamed teacher at Grammar.

We have received some phone calls following the publication of the article. I have been out of the office or on the phone on each occasion. The callers (different voices, according to my assistant) have declined to provide names or phone numbers and have said they will ring back at a specific time, but to date none has.

In this context, the Diocesan Solicitors and Insurers have produced a new statement (**enclosed: D**) for use in responding to enquiries. The Insurers, through their solicitor, Ron Ashton of Minter Ellison, have instructed that no comment is to be made to the press, but they have agreed that the statement could be used in response to enquiries from members of the School community. The last statement (in brackets) is intended to be used only if relevant.

We have been "let know" that one student who claims abuse while at St Paul's, possibly acting with others, will lodge pleadings shortly, perhaps on May 28. As this day is a Sunday, the date is suspect, - or it may mean that he will deliberately seek to gain publicity on this day.

It may be that we have no alternative but to wait and respond to whatever transpires. Some staff have suggested that it is time we took the initiative and made a statement to the School community along the lines of the following paragraph, which was originally prepared against the possibility of adverse publicity three years ago:

St Paul's has been unfortunate to experience allegations of indecent dealing concerning a former student counsellor. The student counsellor concerned has since passed away. The School has made every effort to ensure that this situation is handled with sensitivity and respect for those involved. The safety and security of all students are of paramount concern at St Paul's.

We are, as always, very much in the hands of the Diocesan legal advisers and the situation remains difficult.

5. Government Matters

Dr Kemp, Federal Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, will visit the School on Monday 15 May to speak to students and staff about pathways. He will then host a lunch for the principals of the schools in the Petrie electorate. Ms Teresa Gambaro MP has organised this occasion.

Changes to the GST as it affects schools are being announced regularly. Information is **enclosed: E** about the Educational Textbook Subsidy Scheme.

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We have no knowledge of any complaints of improper behaviour by Mr Lynch while he was at Brisbane Grammar School.

We had no complaint of any improper behaviour by Mr Lynch at St Paul's before he committed suicide.

Since Mr Lynch's suicide, we have received information about alleged improper behaviour by Mr Lynch. We are working with the students involved and their parents to resolve the issues which have arisen.

The Anglican Diocese of Brisbane has developed a protocol which can be used by anybody subjected to sexual harassment or abuse by a person working within a Church organisation. This extends to all Anglican schools.

[If anybody should have concerns of this kind they should report them immediately within their school or through the Diocesan protocol.]



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