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Dear Brisbane Grammar Old Boy,

Many of you, especially those who currently reside in Queensland, will be aware of the media attention that was given almost 12 months ago to allegations of professional misconduct by former BGS school counsellor, Kevin Lynch (now deceased), during his time at the School in the 1970s and 80s. After retiring from BGS at the end of 1988, Lynch subsequently worked for a number of years in a similar role at St. Paul's School.

At the time that those allegations were brought to the attention of the School in mid-2000, public sympathy was expressed on behalf of the School to any former student who may have been affected by any misconduct on Lynch's part.

The School quickly set up an independent counselling service for any student who might have been so affected. A number of former students contacted the School to advise of their experiences with Kevin Lynch. Dr. Joan Lawrence, a highly qualified independent psychiatrist, referred a (small) number of these former students to appropriate independent counselling and the School has accepted a moral responsibility to support counselling for these men.

Very recently, further publicity (in the Courier-Mail) announced that a Brisbane law firm, acting on behalf of a number of former students, has instituted proceedings against the School with respect to alleged misconduct by Lynch. At the time of writing, the School still has not received any details concerning these claims. Until any such legal action is taken or other specific claims are brought to the School's attention, the School is not in a position to make further response, beyond repeating its initial sympathy for any former student who may have been affected by misconduct on Lynch's part.

I do earnestly repeat the invitation, made at the outset of allegations first being brought to the School's attention, to contact the School (ph. 38345200), where information will be handled sympathetically and professionally. Also, the offer of counselling support remains open and can be accessed through Dr. Lawrence. Information as to how to take up this offer is available from the Headmaster's office or through the School's fully qualified psychologist counsellor.

Some members of the School community have expressed concern regarding the financial future of the School in the light of the claims reported in the Courier-Mail. As no individual claims have yet been received, it is too early for us to know, but it can be said that the School has a number of insurers for the period concerned and the Board is of the view that there is no exposure of the School's financial future.

The Board also wishes to advise that the School of today is operating successfully and that its students are being provided with a high quality education in a safe and supportive environment. Processes, both external and internal, have been in place for a number of years to ensure that student welfare is a high priority. Prior to any of the allegations mentioned, the School had in place policies and practices to support a safe and secure environment for students. Ways for reporting any form of misconduct by an adult or by another student are well publicised and encouraged, and the School undertakes to investigate properly and fully any such claims of misconduct, bullying



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or other improper behaviour. Encouraged by the allegations made in 2000 the School moved further to strengthen its policies and procedures, especially in requiring a check of criminal record when hiring new staff, to make every effort to ensure that students are not at risk.

The past 12 months has been a difficult time for the School community. We have been greatly heartened by the trust and confidence that the School community has shown in the BGS of today. It appears that we may have had a truly bad person in a trusted position within the School for a period in the past. For that we are truly sorry. However, it is important for those students of today and for those of the future that we look ahead and do all in our power to make sure that any problem of the past is not repeated.

Both personally, and on behalf of the School, I repeat our expression of sympathy to any former student who may have been affected by misconduct on the part of Kevin Lynch, and I remind any such former student that the School's offer of counselling support remains available.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Stack
Chairman, Board of Trustees.



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