

Final

4 November 2006

Response by Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brisbane Grammar School

In answer to the questions which you have raised with the Headmaster I make the following comments.

At the time this sad situation came to light Brisbane Grammar School adopted an open and transparent approach, willingly engaging with past students through the provision of counselling, support and monetary compensation.

The School and its staff were unaware of these events at the time they occurred, but since having been informed have made every effort to connect with and to assist those affected.

As to the allegations that the School or the then Headmaster knew, the Headmaster denied he was told anything. Nevertheless, it was considered in all proceedings. Every person involved knew this, was advised by their solicitors accordingly and took this into account when settlements were reached with the School.

As to your questions about how the School funded its contributions to settlements and whether there was any impact on the continued delivery of educational programs by the School the position remains as per my public address at the School's Speech Night in November 2002. I said:

"The cost to the School will be significant but not one which will affect the fabric or performance of the School as you know it today. No School assets will be sold... our contribution to settlements will be funded by a special borrowing which is within our prudential capacity... fees will not rise to accommodate the School's contribution because that will not be fair to the current School community... the real financial consequences for the School will be a delay in the commencement of our next major project..."

Some of these comments were referred to on the front page of The Courier Mail on 17 January 2003.

In short, the costs that the School incurred have in no way affected the quality of the ongoing tuition and programs offered to students today.

Chairman
Board of Trustees of Brisbane Grammar School
