



Statement from Brisbane Grammar School regarding the Royal Commission

25 September 2015

Dear Mr ,

As a valued Old Boy I wish to inform you of the impending involvement of the School in one of the many Case Studies which are being conducted by the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* around Australia.

The Royal Commission has now announced a public hearing in Brisbane from 3 November 2015, which will look at educational institutions in Queensland including our own, which relates to abuse by Kevin Lynch, our then student counsellor, in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Royal Commission has said that the elements of the case study relating to Brisbane Grammar School will focus on:

- *The experience of former students of Brisbane Grammar School in Spring Hill, Queensland;*
- *The response of the Board of Trustees, Headmasters and other members of staff of Brisbane Grammar School to complaints about the behaviour of Kevin Lynch, a former school counsellor at Brisbane Grammar School; and*
- *The past and current systems, practices, policies and procedures in place at Brisbane Grammar School in relation to raising and responding to concerns and complaints about child sexual abuse.*

Brisbane Grammar School has worked with the victims of Kevin Lynch with care and compassion for more than 15 years and we have unreservedly and publicly apologised to them for what they endured.

We reiterate that apology today.

Brisbane Grammar School has and will continue to cooperate fully with the Royal Commission, and we support its important work in creating public awareness on the causes and effects of child sexual abuse and promoting best practice child protection policies and procedures.

Even though the hearing will focus on events that occurred many years ago, we understand and appreciate that this may be a difficult experience for our school community, including in particular Old Boys who were victims of Kevin Lynch's abuse.

Some of them will give evidence in this public hearing and we recognise their courage in coming forward and telling their stories. I want them to know that we will listen to them with respect.

Their evidence will be difficult and challenging to hear, however it is central to the Royal Commission's purpose in creating safer institutions for children across Australia.

To anyone who was abused, but has not yet come forward, I again encourage you to do so.

We have been open and transparent with our community about the Kevin Lynch matters over the past 15 years, and we will continue to be with respect to the Royal Commission hearings ahead.

As an Old Boy I want to reassure you that Brisbane Grammar School is a safe place for all our students.

Brisbane Grammar School goes well beyond government legislation. We have comprehensive policies, procedures and strict codes of conduct backed by training that give full effect to our commitment to the safety, protection and welfare of all our students.

Should you wish to talk about our child safety policies and procedures, or the Royal Commission's public hearing, do not hesitate to contact the Headmaster, Anthony Micallef on 07 3834 5322.

Yours faithfully

Mr Howard Stack

Chairman of the Brisbane Grammar School Board of Trustees / BGS Old Boy 1962

To view Brisbane Grammar School's full statement regarding the Royal Commission visit <http://bit.ly/1KyhQkz>

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