

CONFIDENTIAL

Student Protection Annual Statistical Report

2013

Version 2.0

02 February 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Disclaimer

The data referred to in this report is confidential and is obtained from the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba for the purposes of informing Assistant Director SIS, the Director and Bishop regarding student protection activity for 2013. The information contained in this report is sensitive and must not be further distributed or published without the prior express written permission of the Director. Any queries regarding the interpretation of the data should be directed to the Student Protection Officer at the Catholic Education Office, Toowoomba.

1.2 Data Analysis, limitations and Interpretation

The reporting data used in the preparation of this report is collected and maintained by the Student Protection Officer and the Administration Officer - Student Protection, using a Microsoft Access database. This involves the manual data entry of all student protection reports submitted to the Catholic Education Office, capturing key demographic and report specific data. For example, the harm type and to which state authority the report was submitted is recorded, as are details of the student. This database is maintained securely as a "standalone" system.

As the student protection database is reliant on manual data entry, and does not for example reference the SAS database for student information, caution must be exercised when examining the data, particularly when comparing to other reports derived from other databases. This 2013 annual statistical report draws some information from ICSEA and SAS databases and again this information should be read as indicative only.

The student protection data gathering process is continually developing to ensure that the most relevant and accurate information is recorded. As such, there have been some changes in how information is stored over time. In 2013, we have now specified whether the source of harm was a parent or carer, or a person not associated with the school, which is a more detailed layer of data than was previously available. This process has a consequent impact from a time series perspective, in that the data at this level cannot be compared or analysed retrospectively into previous years.

In terms of interpreting the data, note that some percentage breakdowns may not add to 100% due to rounding, and in some cases multiple types of harm or persons responsible for harm may result in totals above 100%. The data must therefore be read in this context.

In addition, it is important to acknowledge that the relatively low number of reports from a statistical perspective mean that when the data is further broken down, relatively small increases or

decreases in number can represent a greater percentage change. Caution must therefore be applied when drawing conclusions from this data alone.

1.3 Legislative and Procedural changes in 2013

On 29 January 2013, a new mandatory reporting provision came into effect in Queensland, as section 366A of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* now stipulates that schools must report a reasonable suspicion that a student is *likely* to be sexually abused. The student protection reporting forms have been amended to reflect this reporting requirement, and the following report highlights the number of instances where a report has been made under these new reporting provisions.

In early 2013, a copy of the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education *Student Protection Policy and Procedure* was submitted to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (NSSAB), in order to ensure that our written procedures complied with the requirements of section 10 of the *Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001*.

NSSAB responded in writing to advise that the *Student Protection Policy and Procedure* adequately reflected the mandatory reporting requirements around sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse, and made one recommendation to adjust the language in the document to more accurately reflect the reporting requirements around the terms "harm" and "suspected harm". These changes were made immediately, and the revised *Student Protection Policy and Procedure* was distributed to schools in April 2013. It is important to note that the changes to our written processes have no impact on the data contained in this report.

2. Statistical Analysis

2.1 Summary Statistics

Between Term 1 and Term 4 2013 inclusive, there were a total of **323** student protection reports made across all categories, including reports of inappropriate behaviour involving staff members. By way of comparison, 304 reports were made in the 2012 school year, therefore 2013 represents a slight increase of 19 or 6% in the number of reports made over the period.

Of these 323 reports, the following breakdown is noted:

Report Category	No. of reports
Historical*	1
Cat 1 Sec 10 Harm	252
Cat 1 Sec 366 Sexual Abuse/ Likely Sexual Abuse	47
Cat 2 Professional Misconduct	9
Cat 3 Minor Incident	14
Grand Total	323

*Note that the historical report relates to current allegations by a former student of a School within the Diocese, where the concerns were forwarded to Police by the Bishop.

A total of **195** reports were submitted to Police, and **227** reports submitted to Child Safety Services (noting that in some circumstances, one report would be sent to both authorities. All reports of sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse were sent to Police, with a copy of the report submitted to the Bishop, copy to the Director and Assistant Director SIS, as per the agreed protocol.

2.2 Analysis by Reporting Category

The data shows that the most frequently reported concern (78% of all reports) related to harm, suspected harm or risk of harm to a student.

Of the 47 reports of sexual abuse, 10 (21%) relate to suspicions of *likely* sexual abuse. These concerns captured possible grooming behaviours by school staff members and persons not associated with the school. Of the reports of sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse, 3 related to school staff members, with breakdown as follows:

- In one case, the concerns were identified through inspection of a file previously held at the Bishop's Office which identified concerns that a now former teacher at a secondary college had sexually abused a number of students during his employment at the school. This matter was referred to Police and has resulted in the commencement of criminal court proceedings.

- One case involved allegations by a former student of a secondary school that a current teacher had engaged in sexual behaviour with a current secondary school student. This matter was referred to Police with the outcome unsubstantiated.
- The final case involved allegations against a secondary school teacher which indicated likely sexual abuse of a current secondary student. These concerns followed a number of reports of inappropriate behaviour over the past two years. A Police investigation found that there was no criminal activity, however concerns of professional conduct were then raised and the staff member subsequently resigned.

In all of the above cases, including the historical concerns reported by the Bishop, the Queensland College of Teachers have been notified.

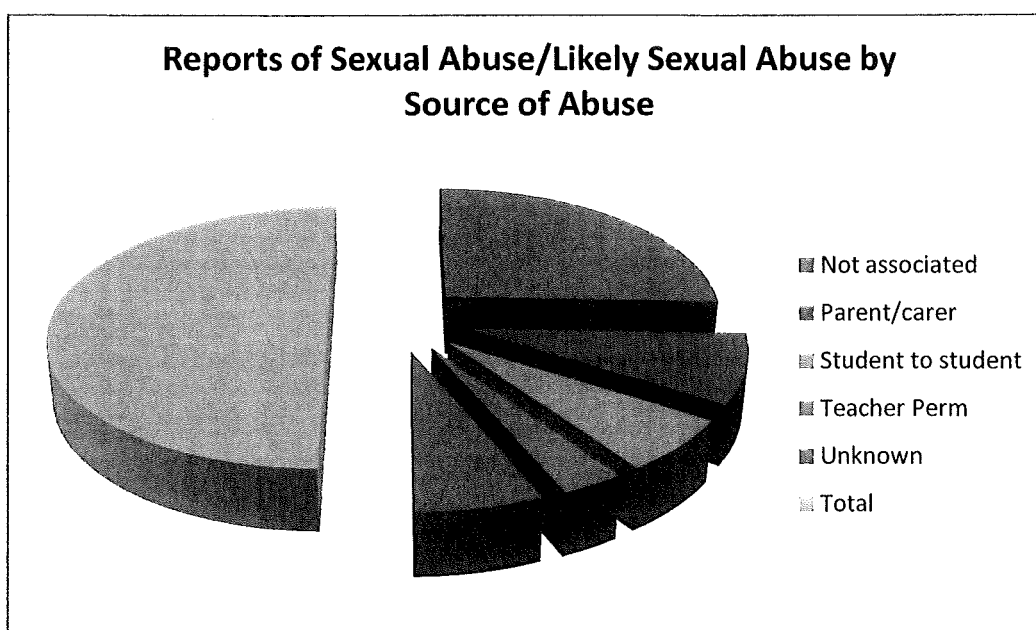
2.3 Analysis of reports of sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse by source of abuse

Table 1: Reports of Sexual Abuse/Likely Sexual Abuse by Source of Abuse: 2013

Source of Abuse	No. of reports
Not associated	24
Parent/carer	8
Student to student	6
Teacher Perm	3
Unknown	6
Total	47

Analysis of reports of sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse by the source of abuse reveals that the most frequent source of harm is a person not associated with the school at 24 reports (51%). It is also important to note that six reports related to sexual abuse between students, and that in six cases the source of the abuse was not known.

Graph 1: Reports of Sexual Abuse/Likely Sexual Abuse by Source of Abuse: 2013



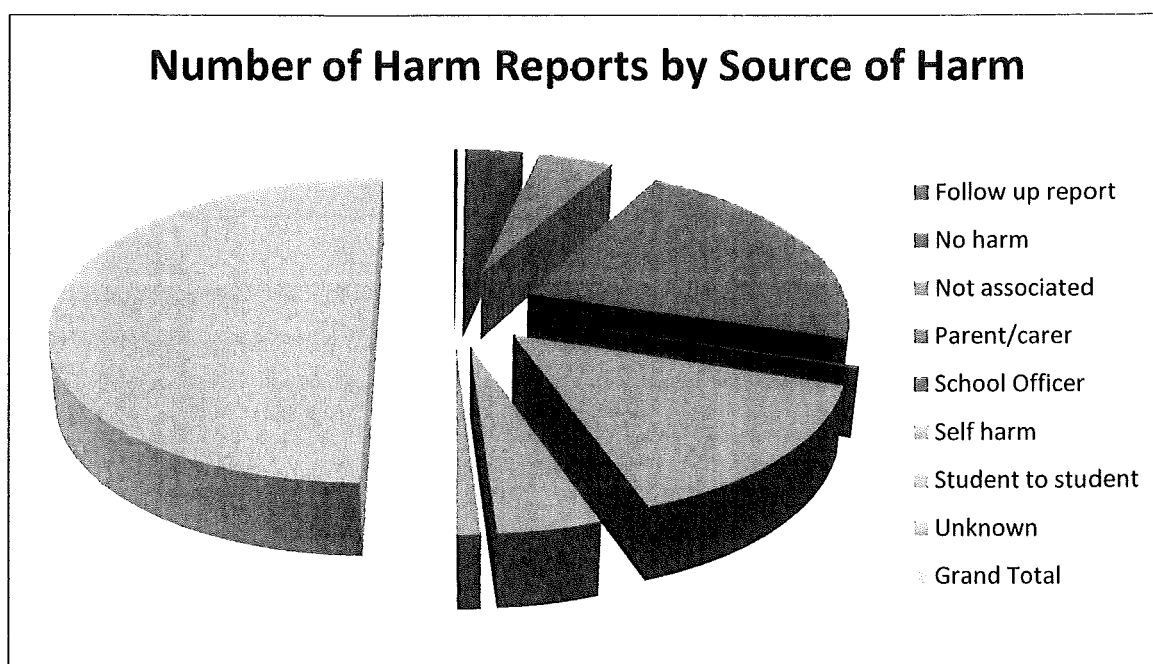
2.4 Analysis of Harm reports by Harm Type

Table 2: Reports of Harm/Suspected Harm/Risk of Harm by Source of Harm: 2013

Source of Harm	No. of reports
Follow up report	1
No harm	17
Not associated	22
Parent/carer	110
School Officer	1
Self harm	74
Student to student	22
Unknown	5
Grand Total	252

Analysis of reports of harm, suspected harm or risk of harm by the source of harm reveals that the most frequent source of harm is the student's parent or carer at 110 reports (44% of all harm reports). It is also important to note the frequency of self harm reports at 74, or 29%, of all harm reports. Note that the harm report submitted in relation to a school officer involved an allegation of emotional harm, which was unsubstantiated following a Police investigation.

Graph 2: Reports of Harm/Suspected Harm/Risk of Harm by Source of Harm: 2013



2.5 Analysis of Reports by School

Table 3: Total number of Student Protection Reports by School, including ICSEA data, student enrolment data: 2013

School Name	No. Of Reports	Distinct Students*	ICSEA 2012	Student Enrolments*	Rate of reporting (%)
Allora, St Patrick's School	0	0	1030	97	0
Clifton, St Francis de Sales	0	0	894	92	0
Pittsworth, St Stephens	0	0	1013	124	0
Tara, St Joseph's	0	0	898	43	0
the primary school	1	1	1044	424	0.2
Non-system school*	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Quilpie, St Finbarr's	1	1	894	22	4.5
Taroom, St Mary's	1	1	991	24	4.2
Goondiwindi, St Mary's	2	2	1025	369	0.5
Inglewood, St Maria Goretti	2	1	897	49	2.0
Chinchilla, St Joseph's	3	3	1057	202	1.5
Tmba, Sacred Heart	3	3	974	237	1.3
Cunnamulla, Sacred Heart	5	1	798	82	1.2
Highfields, Mary MacKillop	5	5	1043	427	1.2
Millmerran, St Joseph's	5	3	1031	89	3.4
Oakey, St Monica's	6	4	941	183	2.2
Tmba, Holy Name	6	5	993	161	3.1
Warwick, Assumption College	6	6	988	312	1.9
Warwick, St Mary's	6	6	995	427	1.4
Dalby, OLOSC	7	6	1023	797	0.8
Tmba, Mater Dei	7	5	1128	432	1.2
Tmba, Our Lady of Lourdes	7	4	1006	415	1.0
Charleville, St Mary's	9	7	984	194	3.6
St George, St Patrick's	10	7	997	247	2.8
Stanthorpe, St Joseph's	10	10	993	403	2.5
Tmba, YCLC	11	3	N/A	16	18.8
Tmba, St Anthony's	12	8	992	246	3.3
Mitchell, St Patrick's	16	8	845	42	19.0
Tmba, St Thomas More's	18	10	1050	409	2.4
Roma, St John's	28	18	1025	724	2.5
Tmba, St Joseph's College	34	26	1028	717	3.6
Tmba, St Mary's College	47	35	1011	741	4.7
Tmba, St Saviour's College	54	40	974	271	14.8
Total	323	230	N/A	9018	N/A

Note that the total count of reports includes all reports across all reporting categories, including inappropriate behaviour by staff members or volunteers.

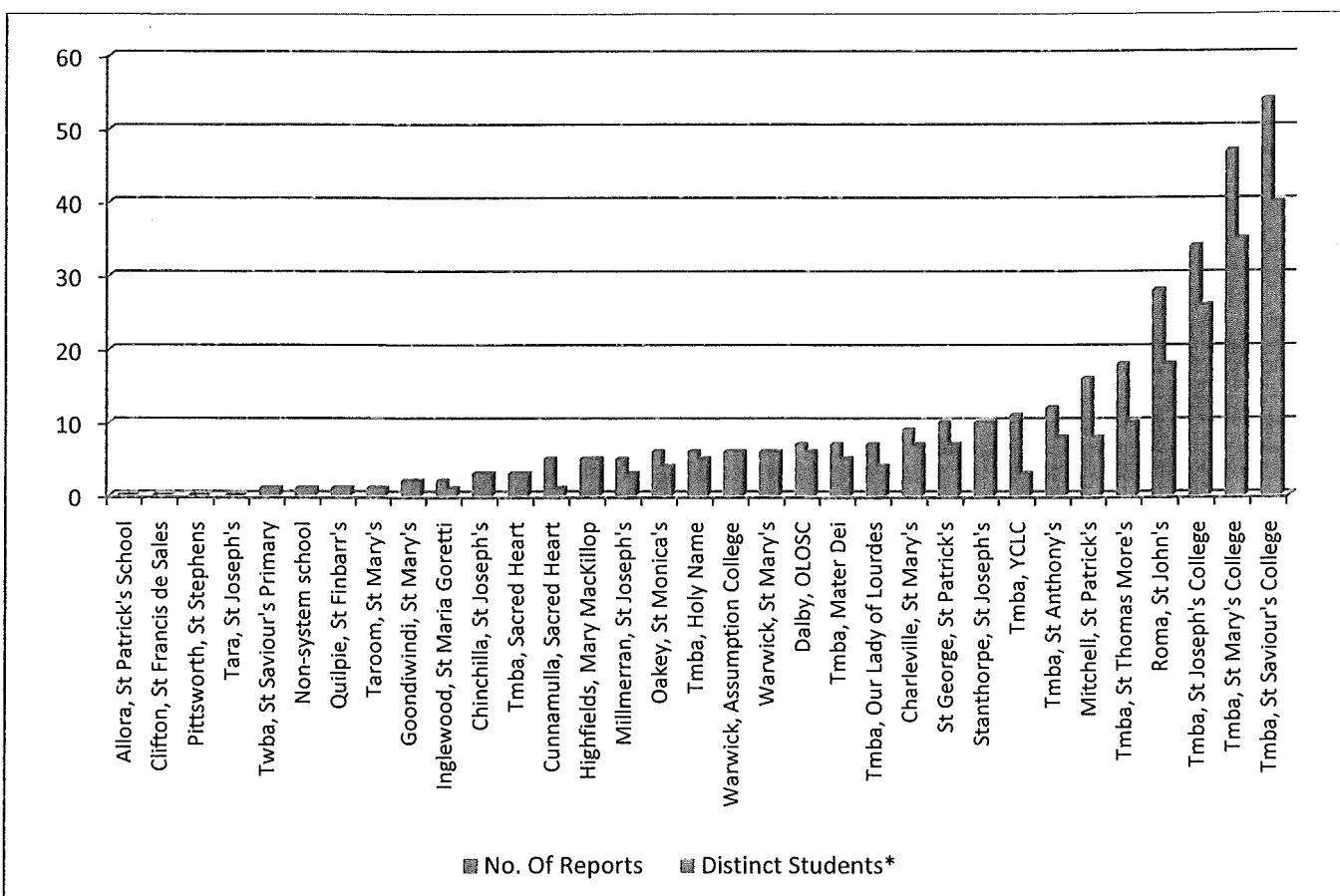
*Distinct students refers to the distinct count of students who were subject of a report of harm, suspected harm, risk of harm, sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse over the reporting period. One report originated from St Anthony's Primary School involving a student from St Saviour's College, and the data has been adjusted accordingly.

*Student enrolment data is taken from the SAS database using the August 2013 census data

*One report of sexual abuse related to a student from a non-system school, however also involved students from a system school. Therefore, this report has been captured for completeness.

The ICSEA score used is for 2012, noting that the 2013 data was not available as at the time of preparing the report, and is therefore indicative only.

Graph3: Total number of Student Protection Reports and distinct student subject of a report by School, 2013



Analysis of reporting data by school reveals a number of interesting trends. At a summary review, the largest volumes of reports tend to originate from secondary or P-12 schools, noting St Saviour's College with 54 reports, St Mary's College with 47 reports and St Joseph's College at 34 reports, with a combined representation of 42% of all reports made in 2013.

Including a distinct count of students subject to a report by a school shows a slight variation in the trend, due to two main reasons: firstly a number of schools have made multiple reports over the 2013 period around the same student(s); and secondly that reports of inappropriate behaviour are not reported by student, therefore do not feature in this breakdown.

This data has been expressed as both a distinct count, and as a rate of reporting (the percentage of enrolled students at a school subject of a report). Note that this rate is approximate only, as the number of distinct students subject of a report is an aggregate count over the 2013 period, whereas the student enrolment data is point-in-time as at August 2013.

Initial assumptions may suggest that school size is a factor in the number of reports, as the greater number of students may yield a greater number of reports across all categories, including inappropriate behaviour by staff members given the consequent higher numbers of staff in the larger schools. However, controlling for school enrolment number, factored by a distinct count of students subject of a report (noting again that one student may be subject of a number of reports) reveals a different trend. Whereas the majority of schools have a reporting rate of between 1 and 5% of all students (average 3.4%), St Patricks at Mitchell (19%), Youth and Community Learning Centre (18.8%) and St Saviour's College (14.8%) have statistically significant higher rates of reporting. Of further interest is that both St Saviour's College and St Patrick's School have ICSEA scores below 1000.

The rates involving St Patricks School at YCLC can be possibly explained by the relatively low number of student enrolments, therefore small changes in reporting volume can have a marked impact on the overall rate. However, given the larger size of St Saviour's College, the rate of reporting by this college is of some concern, and highlights an area for further exploration.

It is also prudent to note the low rates of reporting, by comparison, for both St Mary's at Goondiwindi and Our Lady of the Southern Cross at Dalby, both at less than 1%. Again, this is an area for further consideration.

2.5.1 Exploring ICSEA scores and reporting rates by School

Exploring the ICSEA scores by school, and comparing these to both the number and rates of reporting does not reveal a consistent trend, noting that a number of schools with ICSEA scores of less than 1000 have average or lower rates of reporting. By way of example, Sacred Heart Primary School has the lowest ICSEA score of 798, yet a reporting rate of 1.4%. Mater Dei, with the highest ICSEA score of 1128, has a reporting rate of 1.2%, comparable to Sacred Heart Cunnamulla.

Again, noting the reporting rates of St Saviour's College and St Patrick's Primary and their lower ICSEA scores, ongoing monitoring and longitudinal analysis may yield further insight into this relationship.

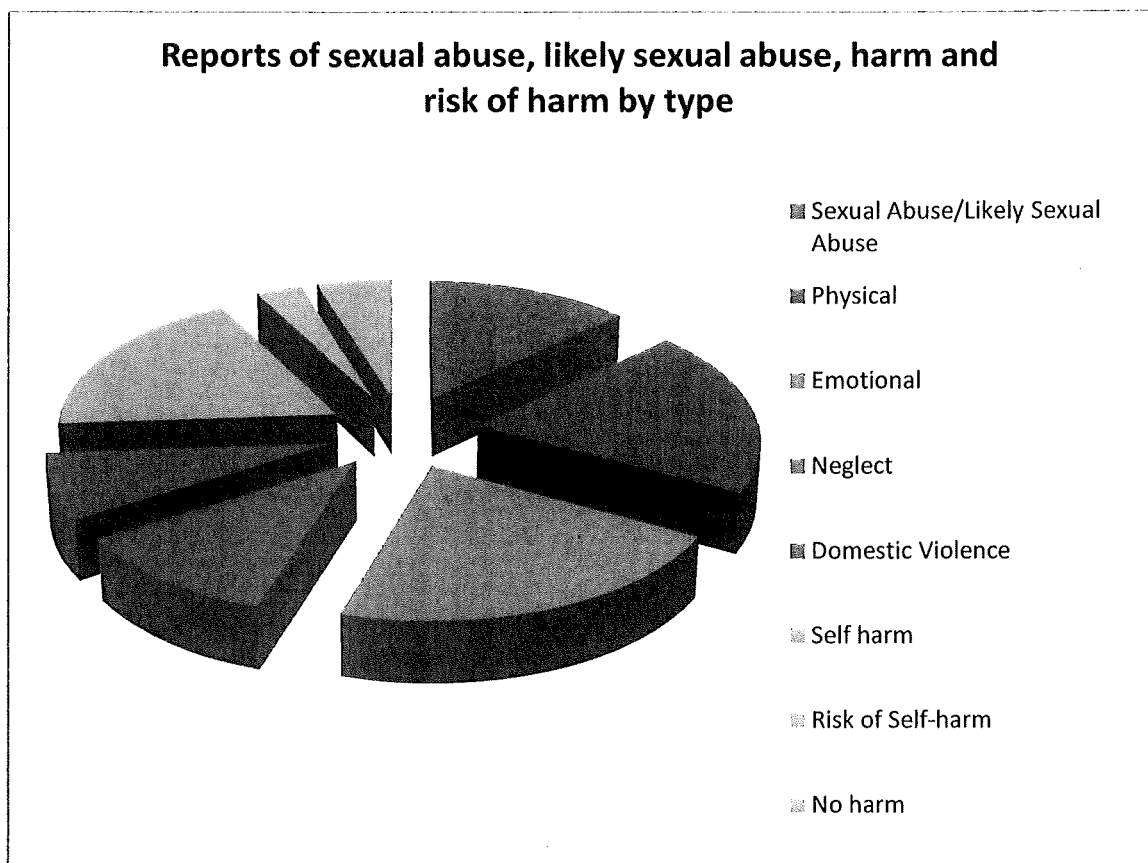
2.6 Exploring reports of abuse and harm by type

Table 4: Reports of sexual abuse, likely sexual abuse, harm, suspected harm and risk of harm by type: 2013

Type of Harm/Abuse	No. of reports
Sexual Abuse/Likely Sexual Abuse	48
Physical	74
Emotional	81
Neglect	41
Domestic Violence	29
Self harm	68
Risk of Self-harm	11
No harm	18

In slight contrast to the trend in 2012 where physical harm was more frequent than emotional harm, in 2013 emotional harm represented the most frequently reported harm type (81 reports). Of further interest is that reports of self-harm exceeded those of sexual abuse and neglect, and that the number of self-harm and risk of self-harm reports has more than doubled from 37 in 2012 to 79 in 2013, an increase of 114%.

Graph 4: Reports of sexual abuse, likely sexual abuse, harm, suspected harm and risk of harm by type: 2013



2.7 Exploring student data

2.7.1 By Gender

As detailed in table 3 previously, 230 distinct students were the subject of a student protection report in 2013. Of these students, **119** (52%) were female, and **111** male (48%), a near equity in the number of reports made. This is in slight contrast to the gender data in the August 2013 Commonwealth Census, which identified 53% male and 47% female student enrolments.

2.7.2 By Indigenous Status

A note of caution: the student protection database stores the Indigenous status of a student subject of a report, based on the information recorded on the reporting form, therefore accuracy of this information may be questionable in some circumstances, in that the author of the report may not know this information.

In 2013, **33** of the students subject of a student protection report were identified as Indigenous, representing **14.3%** of the distinct students subject of a report.

By comparison, the August 2013 commonwealth census data identified 477 of the 9018 students as Indigenous, representing **5.3%** of all enrolled students at that point in time. There is therefore a statistically significant over-representation of Indigenous students subject of a student protection report, and it is noted that this over-representation is consistent at a state level; for example approximately 22% of children subject to an intake through Child Safety Services in 2012-13 identified as Indigenous¹.

Notwithstanding this trend, the over-representation of Indigenous children within student protection report is an area for careful consideration around how child protection concerns with Indigenous families are managed.

2.7.3 By Age

A Student's date of birth is captured from a student protection reporting form and is stored in the student protection database. For the purposes of this analysis, the "age" of a student is taken as their age as at the date of preparing this report (17 December 2013), therefore the average age will be slightly skewed positively, given the spread of reports over the calendar year.

Note also that the age of a student was not always captured on the reporting form, and in these cases was not recorded in the student protection database. These students were not included in the average. In 2013, the approximate average age of a student subject to a student protection report was **13.03** years.

2.8 Reports of inappropriate behaviour

In accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the Education (*Accreditation of Non-State Schools*) Regulation 2001, the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Office student protection policy and procedures has processes for reporting the inappropriate behaviour of a staff member or volunteer towards a student. These comprise Category 3 Minor Incident Reports, or Category 2 Reports of Professional Misconduct.

Over the 2013 school year, there were 22 reports of inappropriate behaviour involving staff members, of which 13 reports were Category 3 Minor Incident Reports, and 9 were Category 2 Professional Misconduct Reports. This is comparable with 2012, where similarly there were 13 Minor Incident reports, and 9 Professional Misconduct reports. The following breakdown is noted by the source of the behaviour:

Table 5: Professional Misconduct reports by source, 2013

Source	No. of reports
School Officer	1
Principal	2
Teacher Permanent	6
Total	9

Note that the 2 reports involving a Principal relate to the same incident, where two reports were lodged by two separate staff members.

Table 6: Minor Incident reports by source, 2013

Source	No. of reports
School Officer	3
Volunteer	1
Teacher Permanent	8
Other school employee	1
Total	13

Note that the 2 reports involving a permanent teacher relate to the same incident, where two reports were lodged by two separate staff members.

The three reports involving a school officer related to the same employee over three

Table 7: Reports of Inappropriate behaviour by School, 2013

School	No. of reports
Roma, St John's	4
Tmba, Our Lady of Lourdes	2
Tmba, St Anthony's	1
Tmba, YCLC	6
Cunnamulla, Sacred Heart	3
Inglewood, St Maria Goretti	1
Tmba, Holy Name	1
Tmba, Mater Dei	1
Tmba, St Saviour's College	3
Total	22

Whilst St John's Roma, Sacred Heart Cunnamulla and YCLC appear to have the greatest volume of inappropriate behaviour, it is noted that with all three schools there have been multiple reports involving the same employees, therefore caution should be exercised before drawing any conclusions from the is information.

3. Recommendations

- As with 2012, identification of those schools with the highest numbers of harm reports has implications from a staff care and support perspective, for consideration by the appropriate Senior Education Officers in collaboration with the Student Protection Officer.
- It is suggested that further exploration of the high rate of reporting from St Saviour's College is warranted, and of those schools with low rates of reporting, such as in Goondiwindi and Dalby.
- Noting the significant rise in reports of self-harm in 2013, further resourcing for schools in