

REDACTED

THE SCHOOL

27 August 2012

**Private and Confidential, Not for Publication**

Dear Parents

There was an article in Saturday's West Australian that referred to the outcome of a re-trial of a former teacher at an unnamed private school, who was dismissed from that school in 2009. Due to a suppression order that the Court put in place at the commencement of the re-trial to protect the identity of the victims, the school was not named in the article and I did not make a comment. However, parents who had children at the school in 2009 received a letter from the then Headmaster advising them of the dismissal of that former teacher from THE SCHOOL

The outcome of the initial trial in August 2010 was that the former teacher was found guilty of indecent dealing with five children under the age of 13 and sentenced to five years of imprisonment with no parole eligibility before three years.

The former teacher subsequently appealed the conviction and sentence, and on the grounds of a technicality was awarded a re-trial on some of the counts. This re-trial was held over the past fortnight and sentencing occurred last Thursday. As in the previous trial the jury were unanimous in their guilty verdict; the Court then handed down the identical sentence to the original trial.

I attended several days of the re-trial as did Tracie Chambers-Clark, Director of Professional Standards of the Perth Anglican Diocese, in order to provide some support to the Old Boys who were giving evidence and their families. The young men demonstrated incredible, courage, conviction, determination and resilience under what were very difficult circumstances, particularly when under cross examination. They are young men of integrity and they have my utmost respect for coming forward as they did back in 2009, and for continuing to fight for justice in this case. I am so sorry for everything that they and their families have had to go through.

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As many of you are aware, prior to me commencing as Headmaster, the Council implemented a complete review of our Child Protection procedures in 2010 through the formation of a Child Protection Review Committee chaired by highly respected educator Audrey Jackson. The key outcomes of the Committee's findings were publicised to the School community in 2011.

As a result I am confident that the School has in place the highest quality Child Protection procedures and policies. These policies have been available on the website and can be accessed via the following link if you would like to review them.

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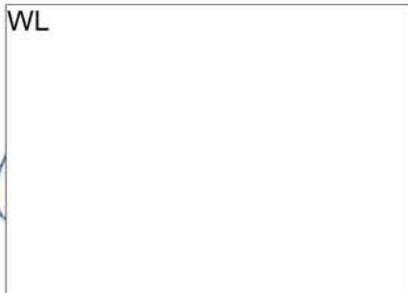
Earlier this year I was asked by Archbishop Roger Herft to join the Professional Standards Committee of the Perth Diocese, which supports the Director of Professional Standards to investigate and manage complaints of sexual abuse and misconduct arising from within the Church or its associated agencies. This position enables me to directly support Tracie Chambers-Clark in her very important role as well as providing me with significant experience in child protection matters.

There is no doubt that the School has learned a great deal from working through what has been a very painful and traumatic process for the victims of the abuse and their families and our focus continues to be on supporting them.

If you have any further queries or concerns regarding this matter please contact my Personal Assistant, REDACTED on REDACT ED or REDACTED .

Yours sincerely

WL



HEADMASTER

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