

ANNEXURE RW-A

to the Statement of Robert
Wilson Nannan sworn February
2015

MEA CULPA

This year was also a year of sadness when we were confronted by allegations of child abuse against five former teachers, two of whom have admitted guilt. Those allegations relate to actions which took place some decades ago. We, and more importantly, the victims cannot, however, take comfort from that fact.

This School, like any other, has, first and foremost, a paramount duty to ensure the safety and well being of all of its students. Sadly, this was not the case for, at the very least, two of our past students where guilt has already been acknowledged by the teachers involved.

The abuse they caused, any abuse, is abhorrent and runs contrary to the Uniting Church and Knox and everything they stand for.

We acknowledge that the students involved have carried a heavy burden and we commend them for their courage in coming forward.

We can, I believe, take some comfort from the fact:

- That the School has worked assiduously to assist Police in their investigations;
- That we have done whatever we could to encourage those within our community with any relevant knowledge to come forward;
- That, where possible, we have offered assistance in the form of independent professional counsellors to those people who have been affected;
- That the current child protection procedures, at Knox, are of the highest standard; and
- That we will continue to closely monitor those procedures to ensure that, in the 21st Century, Knox provides the safest possible environment for its students.

But above all, to those students who were abused, we reiterate our deepest regret and our sincerest sorrow and we offer our apology unreservedly.

