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Concerns about sexual assault in schools

: Student survey

Students and staff will be aware of the concern in the community about incidents of sexual assault on children by adults who were in a position of trust and were responsible for their care. Although very few reports have involved schools, there have also been some episodes in the past in schools throughout the world, including Australia.

Boarding schools have a special responsibility to protect students, but despite every effort, they are sometimes unable to do so if staff are not told about inappropriate sexual behaviour at the school. Sometimes, in the past, there has been cover up by students concerned, sometimes victims have not felt able to report what has happened for various reasons including feeling ashamed or scared, or worried they might not be believed.

Only recently the school has become aware of allegations of sexual assault on another campus that occurred some years ago. The school is not aware of any recent events that might be considered sexual assault by adult members of the school staff on students, or by older students on younger ones. It would however be helpful to have an expression of student opinion and experience in order to be sure that measures in place are fully protecting all members of the school community.

We therefore ask you to fill in the very brief survey to assist us. Your response is entirely anonymous, but if you would like to follow up any concerns in a confidential discussion, we would urge you to do so. Your privacy would be fully protected.

1. Are you aware of any definite incident where a student (either yourself or someone else) has been sexually assaulted by an adult at the school in the last three years?

Yes No Not sure

If No or not sure, go to question 5

2. **If Yes**, was this adult a member of the school staff?

Yes No Not sure

3. **If Yes**, did you report the incident?

Yes No No, but someone else did

4. **If Yes**, was this followed up?

Yes No Don't know

5. Are you aware of any definite incident where a student (either yourself or someone else) has been sexually assaulted by another student at school in the last three years?

Yes No Not sure

If no or not sure thank you – end of survey

6. **If yes**, did you report the incident?

Yes No No, but someone else did.

7. **If yes**, was this followed up?

Yes No Not sure

8. **If no, to question 6** (you didn't report the incident), could you write down why you didn't report it?

Any comments you could make on this subject?

If you would like to do so, you could put your name and house if you would like someone to contact you to discuss this with you in private and confidentially.

Thank you for completing this survey.