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Trinity Grammar School

OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Boarding House Incident

We feel it is important that the facts be known about this tragic situation.

The School totally condemns the grossly unacceptable bullying behaviour of the 3 boys from the Boarding House who have pleaded guilty. We are deeply sorry that this has occurred. We feel for the victims, their families and those directly involved. We will continue to give every assistance in helping them recover from this ordeal.

A report by the DoCS/Police Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has endorsed the efforts taken by the School:

"It would appear that appropriate services have been put in place for the victims, witnesses and their families to assist them both in the interim and in the future. The school has taken the appropriate measures to ensure the students safety and well being". (November 2000)

Media reports have spoken of a "culture of bullying" at the School. We reject that accusation. We believe these were isolated incidents by some individuals, and not part of any "culture". No evidence was tested in Court that supported the allegation of a "culture of bullying" in the Boarding House. No witnesses were called or cross-examined. The School's prompt notification of the allegations to DoCS is quite inconsistent with this so called "culture of bullying". One should also keep in mind that the overwhelming majority of our 1,850 boys have not been involved and should not be denigrated in any way.

What does Trinity intend to do about this from now on?

Our aim is to establish Boarding House procedures that will be regarded as best practice in the field of student residential care. Among other measures, the School will appoint an Independent Expert to review current Boarding House practices. We will conduct anonymous surveys of the boys so they can even more readily report any disturbing incidents.

Like all schools, Trinity is by no means perfect. Our ongoing and unquestioned commitment is to the educational and pastoral care of our boys. They continue to achieve excellence in a wide range of activities. This is clear testimony to the caring and safe Christian environment they enjoy at Trinity.

Head Master and Council of Trinity Grammar School

12 February 2001