



## Marist Regional College Media Statement

*This statement was issued on 14 February 2019 by the late Mr Adrian Drane, Principal of Marist Regional College*

The cases of historical abuse being reported are a reminder of the mislaid trust placed in some individuals, and is a dark part of Marist Regional College's history. These cases are something that should never have occurred at any institution, least of all one that promotes Christian ethos. This abuse of minors and innocent young people was a complete violation of everything the Catholic Faith stands for.

The College community offers its prayers of support to survivors of clergy and laity sexual abuse and their families who have been, and continue to be, deeply affected by the wrongs of the past. One can only imagine the hurt, betrayal and absolute devastation of the survivors of abuse and their families.

As staff we are the current custodians of the College and as such are fully invested in the ongoing protection and safety of our students as our primary and fundamental responsibility.

The College, along with Catholic Education Tasmania has checks and balances that work to ensure that every possible step is taken to protect our young people. We are dedicated and absolutely committed to ensure our students' wellbeing is our primary concern at all times.

Marist Regional College, Catholic Education Tasmania and the Catholic Church in Tasmania have a zero tolerance for abuse in any form, and it supports the role of police and the courts in bringing perpetrators to justice.

I strongly encourage survivors of historical clergy abuse to contact police.

During 2018 the College was approached to ask whether an acknowledgment of the historical abuse could be made, in some form of symbolism at the College. This was unanimously supported by the Leadership Team, College Board and following consultation with the Archbishop of Hobart, Julian Porteous, he gave his final endorsement in late December 2018. In 2019 the College plans to work with relevant parties to have a respectful and meaningful acknowledgment at the College.

The College will continue to support our community through this time and co-operate with police should any enquiries be made in relation to cases of historical abuse.

Survivors and their families in need of support are also encouraged to contact counselling services:

The following contacts are available in an emergency or after hours:

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| • Beyond Blue                     | Phone: 1800 551 800   |
| • Mental Health Services Helpline | Phone: 1800 332 388   |
| • eheadspace                      | Phone: 1800 650 890 or <a href="http://eheadspace.org.au">eheadspace.org.au</a> |
| • CatholicCare                    | Phone: 6431 8555 or 1800 819 447  |
| • Lifeline                        | Phone: 13 11 14   |