



Our Ref: O HO 0227

Statement from the Christian Brothers Oceania

- Canberra Times 17 May 2016

Brother Roberts

- There is currently a judicial process underway in Wollongong in relation the individual named.
- Preserving the independence and propriety of that process is critical for all parties, most importantly for those who have made allegations and also for the defendant.
- We also understand the important need for transparency and openness as much as the judicial constraints above allow.
- The individual was on staff at the College between the years 1978 and 1983 and held a teaching role.
- We acknowledge that this appears to have occurred notwithstanding a previous complaint that resulted in the later settlement of a civil claim.
- The individual was removed from any role with teaching of children in 1991.
- We are aware of one civil claim that has been settled in relation to a complaint subsequently received in relation to his time at the College.
- Sadly it has been the ongoing learning from our own work and that of the Royal Commission that poor practices in the past have failed to deliver acceptable outcomes.
- What happened 25 years ago is not what the community or we would accept today.
- We have made this statement balancing the need to respond openly to the question asked and at the same time respect the independent judicial process underway.
- When we are able to comment further without the risk of influencing the judicial process underway, we will.
- We continue to urge any person with any complaint of abuse to come forward, no matter when it happened or where.
- We also encourage any person with any evidence of criminal behaviour to take that to the police for the appropriate investigation.





- To any person who has suffered abuse at any of our facilities, the Christian Brothers Oceania extends our unreserved apology.
- Our approach since the early 1990s to these matters has been to encourage those with complaints to come forward and our response mirrors the now recommended approach of the Royal Commission, namely personal apology, counselling and monetary payments.
- St Edmund's is an Edmund Rice Education Australia School that has in place best practice child protection guidelines and rigorous employment processes that are backed by staff training and compliance with all legislated safeguards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all its students.
- The Christian Brothers Oceania encourage any person who has suffered abuse at any of our facilities, to contact the Professional Standards Office in Melbourne on (03) 8359 0134.

Note:

All comments are attributed to the 'Christian Brothers Oceania Province'.

Statements are published on the website of the Christian Brothers Oceania.

Media contact: + 61 408 276 749



Christian Brothers Oceania Province Centre
PO Box 596
Virginia BC QLD 4014
Australia

Location:
131 Queens Road
Nudgee QLD 4014
Australia

Ph: +61 (0)7 3621 9600
Fax: +61 (0)7 3621 9688
admin@edmundrice.org
www.edmundrice.org

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