



ST STANISLAUS' COLLEGE

Celebrating 150 years 1867 - 2017

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From the Head of College

APOLOGY

I welcome everyone here this evening and I understand that for many of our guests, the decision to be present tonight was not an easy one to make.

Tonight I speak on behalf of St Stanislaus College – past, present and future members of this community. For all of us, our history is and always will be blemished.

Our College lives with the knowledge of sexual abuse that happened to young men in its care. This is part of our history which cannot be erased and will not be forgotten. In this the 150th year of St Stanislaus College, it is time to say sorry.

As Head of College, I acknowledge all victims present tonight and those unable to be here but who will be able to read this apology for themselves. I acknowledge too, that for some victims and your families, this Service cannot and will not bring the healing and peace you crave and deserve. For this I apologise.

- To all men who suffered sexual abuse at St Stanislaus College
Your experiences at this College brought heartache instead of joy, fear instead of trust, pain instead of compassion, abuse instead of care and love, shame instead of pride, helplessness and despair instead of fullness of life and hope, loss of innocence instead of the joy of youth. I understand that an apology cannot undo the suffering that you experienced and that you carry these memories with you today and always.

With a deep feeling of regret for what took place at this College I apologise to all victims for the abuse you experienced through the actions of some members of staff. These men deprived you of the joys of adolescence that should have been yours to experience in a safe and supportive environment. We are so sorry

- To the parents of men who suffered sexual abuse at St Stanislaus College
I acknowledge the pain, grief and anger you experienced on learning of your son's abuse. I acknowledge the suffering you have endured in the journey that you have walked with him since that time. I acknowledge the sense of betrayal by those men in whom you entrusted the care of your precious boy and who instead abused him and let him down.

With a deep feeling of regret for the abuse your son experienced at this College, I apologise. The abuse of your son whilst at Stannies denied you so many joys of parenthood that were yours to experience. We are so sorry.

- To the Family Members and Friends of Men who suffered abuse at this College
You have shared the knowledge of the horror of sexual abuse at this College. I acknowledge that the knowledge of this abuse continues to impact on victims as adults, as well as on their wives, partners, children, brothers and sisters, extended family and friends. I apologise for the pain and suffering this has caused you

With a deep feeling of regret for the shock and sadness suffered by family members, by relatives, by friends, we are so sorry.

I acknowledge that this College in which families have placed their trust and pride has a time in its past that is a disgrace. We do not and we will not hide from this. I assure all that this College has learned from its past and places the safety, care and wellbeing of its students front and centre.

As Head of this College in this Public Apology I express the enormous despair, horror, sadness and sorrow for the actions of some members of staff. These staff members denied young men the gift of a Catholic education imbued with all its hope and promise.

I sincerely hope that this Apology is one step towards healing. I hope it can begin to establish trust where trust was broken and hope where hope was diminished and destroyed.

This apology cannot undo what has been done.

This apology however, comes with a commitment that we will continue to do all we can to make sure it never happens again.



Dr Anne Wenham

Head of College

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