



8 June 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the Mater Dei Community

I am writing to inform you that from July 11 to July 22 this year the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will be holding a public hearing in Sydney. Part of that case study will focus on child safe practises and a number of incidents from the 1990's at Mater Dei.

Any incident of child sexual abuse is an absolute tragedy for victims and their families.

In the weeks ahead there will be media coverage of the Royal Commission and it is likely that Mater Dei will feature in the coverage.

I wish to assure you that:

1. Any current parents or carers who wish to speak to us about these matters are welcome to and encouraged to do so;
2. I will continue to keep you informed to the best of my ability of any matters that arise which you should be aware of;
3. Today at Mater Dei we have an extensive suite of policies and procedures in place to do everything we possibly can to ensure the safety of our students. I am confident of the efficacy of these policies and procedures and their expression in the daily life of all programs at Mater Dei.

In this difficult time, we should be mindful of the pain felt by victims of abuse and their families. We join with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in expressing deep regret for the lives that have been damaged through tragic events such as abuse of vulnerable children and young people.

I am immensely proud to lead the Mater Dei community. I know first-hand of the exhaustive efforts that are dedicated each day to the safety and well-being of our children and young people. I am committed, as is each member of the Mater Dei staff, to continuing to nurture a community built on trust and one that dignifies each of our students and their families by the exemplary quality of care and opportunity that we extend to them.

Thank you in anticipation of your continuing support of Mater Dei.

Tony Fitzgerald
CEO/Principal