



10 September 2019

Dear Fellow Old Boy

## **The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care**

Last year a Royal Commission of Inquiry (the Royal Commission) was established to investigate the abuse of people in the care of New Zealand's state and faith-based institutions. Similar Commissions of Inquiry have been held in Australia, Ireland and Canada. However, the Royal Commission here is wider in scope than the overseas examples and will consider physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect. The Royal Commission will be inquiring into abuse which took place between 1950 and 1999, and has the discretion to consider events which happened outside that timeframe.

As a faith-based institution, Dilworth, along with other Anglican Schools, supports the Royal Commission. We hope it will allow us to be better informed on how to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students in our care.

### **Steps we are taking**

The Dilworth Trust Board considers all forms of abuse, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, unacceptable and a breach of trust for which the consequences are profound. As a School we have, and will continue to, regularly review and adopt best practice processes and procedures to provide a safer School environment so the young men in our care can reach their full potential, as envisaged by our Founder.

That is why we did not want to wait for the conclusion of the Royal Commission to update the processes and procedures in our School, considering the learnings from international Commissions of Inquiry.

The Board has obtained the support of independent psychologists and other professionals to review our education systems, policies and programmes. So far, we have:

- Commissioned an independent clinical psychologist to advise the Board and prepare a set of protocols, which have been peer-reviewed by independent experts both here and in Australia. The protocols set out best practice abuse prevention and outline processes to follow should a former or current student come forward with a complaint about physical, emotional or sexual abuse;
- Appointed a special management committee to oversee and implement the programmes and institutional culture required to give effect to the protocols;
- Formed a panel of independent, expert clinical psychologists (the Panel), to provide responses and support as required by any current or past students;
- Made safety improvements to our campuses, as well as updated our existing policies and processes; and
- Provided specific educational training for staff and students on the protocols, reinforcing that abuse in any form, be it physical, emotional or sexual, is not tolerated or permitted at Dilworth.

### **Support Services**

As Old Boys, we know some of us suffered abuse while at school. Mostly this has been physical and emotional, such as bullying and excessive corporal punishment (prohibited from 1987), and also sexual abuse.

On behalf of the Board and the School, I would like to express our deep regret and apologise to those Old Boys whose lives were affected by abuse under our care.

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#### *Dilworth Trust Board*

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In addition to implementing the processes and procedures identified in the protocols, we are reaching out to Old Boys (for whom we have contact details) to offer the following support services to anyone who suffered abuse of any form while at the School:

- A confidential, free Listening Service which can be promptly arranged for Old Boys if you want to discuss your experiences with an independent clinical psychologist; and
- If you need more support following engagement with the Listening Service, further counselling can be arranged with an independent clinical psychologist at no cost.

To use the Listening Service, please email [assist@dobsupport.com](mailto:assist@dobsupport.com)

You will then be contacted in confidence by an independent clinical psychologist, who is a member of the Panel.

If you prefer to speak to another organisation, you will find contact numbers and details for a range of support services here: [www.abuseincare.org.nz/survivors/counselling-and-support/support-services](http://www.abuseincare.org.nz/survivors/counselling-and-support/support-services)

### **An invitation**

We are holding a private Old Boys meeting for any Old Boy who wishes to attend, regardless of their experience at Dilworth, at **11 a.m. on Friday 20 September 2019 at the Heritage Hotel in Auckland**. You can enter via the Conference Centre at 14 Wyndham Street, or if you drive, please enter via Nelson Street.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the support services we have put in place for you and to tell you about the steps we have taken at the School to provide a safer environment for our students. We also want to answer any questions you might have. I invite you and other Old Boys to meet with Headmaster Dan Reddix and me at this private event for Dilworth Old Boys.

Please RSVP your attendance to: [RSVP@Dilworth.school.nz](mailto:RSVP@Dilworth.school.nz) or call (09) 523 4888 and leave a message with your name and year of attendance at the School.

### **Reaching out to other Old Boys**

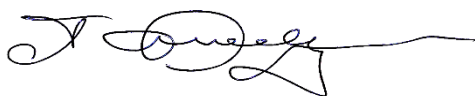
The Dilworth Trust Board is committed to ensuring Dilworth is as safe as possible for our students and to supporting our Old Boy community.

Some of our contact details for Old Boys are not current. If you are aware of other Old Boys who may wish to learn more about the services available to them, please let them know about this letter and the invitation to meet with Dan and me on 20 September 2019.

If you'd like to update your details in our system, please email [info@dilworth.school.nz](mailto:info@dilworth.school.nz)

I look forward to talking further with you.

**Aaron Snodgrass**



**Chairman  
Dilworth Trust Board**