



Dilworth

23 August 2024

Gerry Smutz
President
The Dilworth Old Boys' Association Incorporated ("DOBA")

By email: president@doba.nz

Dear Gerry

Participation of Former Board Chairs and Headmasters in Dilworth Events

The Board and Dilworth School have considered the concerns raised by our wider community about hosting former Dilworth Board Chairs and Headmasters at School or Board events.

Some former students who were abused, other Old Boys, staff and members of our wider community have told us they do not wish to attend events at which they might encounter those who were responsible for the governance or management of our School during the time the historical abuse occurred.

This is particularly true in the case of former students who were abused, and we have a strong desire and responsibility to do them no further harm, as we work through a redress and apology process with them. Some are wishing to reconnect with Dilworth and participate in a collaboration process with the wider community but will not do so if they are at risk of encountering former Board Chairs and Headmasters.

The Board and School must prioritise the wellbeing and safety of those in the Dilworth community. That is our starting point for the decision to adopt a policy with respect to future invitations to events hosted by the Board or School.

We are therefore going to take the position of excluding former Board Chairs and Headmasters from guest lists, or invitations to attend or participate in events, at Dilworth School or elsewhere hosted by the Board or School.

Dilworth Trust Board

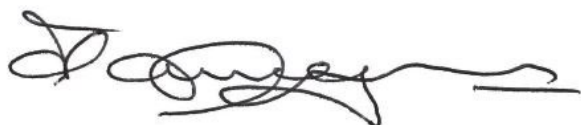
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We understand that not everyone in our community will agree with this policy. We have, however, listened to our former and current students, their parents and whānau, and staff – and taken this decision in the best interests of their wellbeing and our desire to bring healing within the Dilworth community.

Finally, the Board is aware that attendance at DOBA events by former Board Chairs and Headmasters is also a matter the DOBA Council has been asked to consider by some Old Boys. The Board's decision as outlined above relates solely to Dilworth School and Board events. It is for DOBA to determine its own policy in this matter. We share our decision in the interests of transparency.

Yours sincerely

DILWORTH TRUST BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Snodgrass', written in a cursive style.

Aaron Snodgrass

CHAIRMAN