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The Geelong College Bulletin 2023 Term 4 Week 3

We are a school with a long history. Much of our history has shaped us into the fine school we are today, but some students have suffered abuse while in the care of this school. It is important for you, as current parents and carers, to understand that we continue to be committed to working compassionately with survivors of abuse in our community.

The Geelong College continues in its longstanding commitment to condemning abuse of any form and harm of students of this school. In addition to this we stand ready to acknowledge, apologise to and support any student who was harmed while in the care of the school. In recent years the approach to supporting survivors of harm has continued to evolve with significant input from survivors as well as through lessons learned in this process. Most recently, we have updated our website information which summarises this approach and is available to all. Here is the link to this information: [Historical Harm and our school \(tgc.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.tgc.vic.edu.au/historical-harm-and-our-school)

The key moments of public acknowledgement of harm and support for survivors have been the Loud Fence ceremony in March 2018 and the Middle School Reflective Space in July 2022. The ongoing support for survivors has been largely through the work of Pauline Ryan and work with a team lead by me as Principal. Most recently, we have developed an understanding with the In Good Faith Foundation (IGFF) as an additional source of support to provide services for survivors of harm through case management and independent advocacy services for survivors, their families and communities impacted by institutional abuse. The services of IGFF is intended to complement the existing support and to take us into the future. We recognise that support for survivors of harm is a long-term responsibility of College and may take many forms, changing over time with the needs of survivors, their families and the wider community.

It is very important for The Geelong College to embrace anyone who had been harmed at this school, regardless of the period of time that has passed since the abuse took place. The approach is constantly evaluated as we seek to help people rebuild their lives beyond the incidents that should not have taken place. Regaining trust of people who have been betrayed is not easy and is not necessarily expected. However, an honest embrace and support for survivors and their families is the best place to start. We look forward to a building a relationship with IGFF as we seek to do this.

Dr Peter D. Miller
Principal

