



ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE

ABN 29 525 834 783

Office of the Provincial, Australia

Saturday, 16 March 2019

The impact of the events leading to the recent trial and conviction of Michael Endicott has been damaging and distressful for many people connected with Villanova College, particularly the past student and his family. All past students of the College who are aware of, or who become aware of these events, will be disturbed. All who have a close association with participants in these events will be distressed, some severely so.

The Augustinians in Australia, and particularly those who have had a close association with the College, are deeply saddened and troubled by the recent revelation of the abuse of students. I need to express our deep sorrow for the damage done by a member of the Augustinian Order while on the staff of Villanova. I apologise, on behalf of each Augustinian, for any damage to a student who was in our care.

I want you to know that in the midst of our bewilderment we are taking steps to know about and reach out to any past student with a story of abuse. While uncertain about the best way to do this, we are currently seeking advice from people familiar with the appropriate responses. We look to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission, including participation in the National Redress Scheme, for which we have commenced the application process. To ensure transparency and accountability in our response to any victim, we have included some past students of the College amongst those who will work with us on the most appropriate, independent and sincere response for any victim.

It has come to my awareness that an appeal may be lodged against Michael Endicott's conviction. The Order has nothing to do with the appeal, the funding of any appeal nor the related recent application for bail pending an appeal.

I am thankful for this opportunity to use the Old Boys Facebook page to acknowledge the profound wrong that is sexual abuse. That such abuse has happened at Villanova and aware of the deep hurt it causes to any victim, is a continuing deep sorrow for myself and my Augustinian brothers.

Fr Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial
Order of St Augustine
Province of Australasia