

27 February 2020

Pastoral Outreach Forums

Fellow Villanova College past students, families and friends,

In recent years, the Catholic Church has been the focus of child sexual abuse inquiries and regrettably, Villanova College has not been immune to this appalling violation.

Naturally, the publicising of these incidents has invoked disappointment, resentment and pain for some in the Villanova College community, especially those who have suffered abuse and their families. In acknowledgment of this, we have begun a pastoral outreach initiative for past Villanova College students and family members.

In March, we will be running pastoral outreach forums. The primary purpose of the forums is to provide information about the assistance available to those who may have been affected by past abuse, and perhaps to process some of the sentiments that have been invoked. Whilst the Augustinian Order and Villanova College support this initiative, the forums will be facilitated independently of both. We will be assisted by psychologist Penny Gordon and Mark Eustance, former Director of the Queensland Professional Standards Office (Catholic Church). Both have experience in supporting survivors of child sexual abuse.

An initial two forums have been scheduled for the following dates:

Wednesday 25 March 2020 (6pm to 8pm)

Thursday 26 March 2020 (6pm to 8pm)

The forums are being held at a local venue and, for practical reasons, the number of attendees at each forum will be capped. Attendees must register. 'Walk in' attendance will not be possible.


If you are interested in attending one of the forums please register your interest via email pastoraloutreach@outlook.com by **close of business on 16 March 2020**. Details of the venue will be provided on confirmation of registration.

It is our sincere hope that these forums can be the beginning of some measure of healing for those in the Villanova College community who have been affected in some way by past abuse at the College. We would be grateful for your kind support of this pastoral initiative.

Yours sincerely



John Godwin
Villanova College - Class of 86



Nicholas Pedrazinni
Villanova College - Class of 86

Apology on behalf of the Augustinians in Australia - 2nd December 2018

<http://www.osa.org.au/media/49386/Augustinian-Apology-2-December-2018.pdf>

<https://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/news/apology-from-the-order-of-st-augustine/>