



Community Update

Friday 12 February, 2016

1: Progress on Compensation

Brisbane Grammar School has, since 2000, been working to address the effects of the abuse of students perpetrated by Kevin Lynch between 1976 and 1988, and will continue to do so for as long as it takes.

Prior to the Royal Commission's public hearing in November 2015, Brisbane Grammar School had participated in mediations and reached compensation agreements with 72 former students.

Contrary to other figures recently published, the average compensation payment by the School, including contribution to claimants' legal costs, is on average \$75,000. Most of the payments were made in late 2002 and 2003. Of that total payment, some \$61,000 represented agreed compensation, with the balance being the School's contribution to claimants' legal costs.

The Royal Commission in its Redress and Civil Litigation Report released on 14 September 2015 recommends an average compensation payment of \$65,000 (assessed in real 2014 dollars).

Since June 2000, the School has also funded counselling for victims on an ongoing basis, which is over and above compensation payments made to claimants.

BGS has recently reached agreements with a number of new claimants and is currently engaged in a mediation process with others. As at February 2016, BGS has reached agreement with 76 claimants.

2: Progress on Counselling

BGS continues to provide counselling support to victims of Kevin Lynch.

BGS has funded counselling support since June 2000 which is consistent with the Royal Commission's recommendations on counselling in the Redress and Civil Litigation Report of 14 September 2015.

This report included recommendations with respect to counselling providers, eligibility for counselling support and review of ongoing treatment.

Counselling support will continue to be provided to the victims of Kevin Lynch for as long as is required.



3: Naming of the Sports Centre

In December 2015 the name of the former Headmaster Dr Max Howell was removed from the School's Indoor Sports Centre following a decision by the Board of Trustees, which was supported by the Howell Family.ⁱ

The Board hopes that this decision will be an important part of the healing process for those abused by Lynch.

4: Consideration of the refund of school fees

Brisbane Grammar School is an independent, non-denominational school.

The Board has considered and decided against adopting the initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane in respect of the refund of school fees.

The School will continue with its existing approach to redress and compensation for those who have been abused by Kevin Lynch, reflecting the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

The Board of Trustees notes the Royal Commission's Redress and Civil Litigation Report that states:

"In relation to 'secondary victims'... we have focused on providing redress for survivors themselves rather than for their families or broader communities that might also be affected by the abuse. The needs of 'secondary victims' will be considered further through our separate work on support services. We do not recommend that a redress scheme should provide redress to anyone who is not themselves a survivor of institutional child sexual abuse."

5: Our Ongoing Response

Brisbane Grammar School will continue with its approach to redress and compensation since 2000, which includes a personal apology from the current leadership of the School, agreed compensation payments and counselling.

The School can never do enough to mend the hurt caused by the actions of Kevin Lynch, but will continue its endeavours to bring some measure of healing to those abused by him.

The School again encourages any victim who may not yet have come forward to do so at a time and in a way that suits them. Information and contact details are available on our websiteⁱⁱ to assist those who wish to come forward.

ⁱ <https://www.brisbanegrammar.com/NewsandEvents/News/Pages/From-the-Board-of-Trustees.aspx>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.brisbanegrammar.com/About/RoyalCommission/Pages/default.aspx>