

21st April 2018

Dear Members of the De La Salle Community,

As you may already know, or have read, former De La Salle Brother (Ibar) Frank Terrence Keating was sentenced in the Victorian County Court Friday 20 April to five years and three months jail for indecently assaulting eight students here at Malvern between 1969 and 1977. (Keating has previously served jail terms in Victoria and Queensland in the 1980s and 1990s for abusing children.)

You will also no doubt know, or have heard during the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry and, subsequently, the Royal Commission, that many, many Catholic dioceses and religious Orders have had to acknowledge that priests and religious in decades past were relocated to other schools, other states, other dioceses despite allegations having been raised about their criminal activities.

I cannot apologise sufficiently to each and every one of you on behalf of every one of us on the staff and College Board for the pain and suffering, the lifelong pain, inflicted upon the victims of sexual and physical abuse at Malvern during decades past.

Sexual abuse is totally abhorrent to each of us; as a College community we have worked diligently in recent years to institute comprehensive Child Protection Policies and Procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each and every student at De La Salle.

Our employment practices are in complete accord with all government, Catholic Education Commission and Victorian Institute of Teaching requirements and staff participate annually in professional learning programs relating to Mandatory Reporting and Child Protection Legislation.

The College is willing and able to answer any question you may have about anything to do with child safety and I encourage you to make contact with me directly should you want to discuss anything, and to do so in complete confidence.

In addition, anyone who has a concern or a complaint of any sort should not hesitate to contact me personally in the knowledge that the matter will be received and dealt with promptly and confidentially. You may also contact the De La Salle Office of Professional Standards on 02 9795 6411, which can provide help and support. In addition, anybody with any evidence of criminal conduct is urged to contact the Victoria Police SANO Task Force – sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au or on their toll free number 1800 110 007 where victims/witnesses may provide police with information for the appropriate investigation. Confidentiality is guaranteed for those seeking support or making a report.

In closing, I can only reiterate that the abuse of any child, irrespective of how long ago it may have occurred, is criminal, abhorrent and goes against everything we stand for at De La Salle College, Malvern.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Houllihan
Principal



Tony Morwood
Chair of the College Board