

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **Re: Allegations of Historical Sexual Abuse**

Preshil acknowledges a writ lodged by a former Preshil student in the Victorian Supreme Court that alleges historical child sexual abuse committed by a former Preshil employee, Mr John McMillan who worked at the School prior to 1996.

In 2016, Mr McMillan was convicted of offences involving another former student of Preshil, and a student of another school where he taught prior to being employed at Preshil. He was placed on the sex offenders register for life.

As a School we are devastated that acts of abuse occurred under our care and for the terrible impacts these have had on the lives of members of our community.

Preshil apologises unreservedly for these shocking acts of abuse and offer our unconditional support to its survivors. We are committed to righting these wrongs.

We also apologise to every member of the School community, past and present, who has suffered because of the actions of this man and for the dreadful impact his crimes have had on individual lives.

Preshil is shamed by the school's historical failure to protect its children. We are deeply sorry for this wrong.

We acknowledge the courage of all survivors of child sexual abuse who have spoken about their experiences and we are committed to providing them with support.

Preshil offers its wholehearted support to victims of these crimes and asks anyone seeking support to contact us directly, or seek help from others to contact us on their behalf.

Our school community is entitled to be assured that every child is safe at Preshil; that children and their parents will be heard, their concerns acted upon and that every one of our staff commit to the highest standards of professional boundaries and behaviour and to a culture of vigilance and intolerance of any breach of those standards.

Our policies governing the safeguarding of children are available from the School and on our website.

**Enquiries should be directed to Mr Andrew McMeekin - President, School Council, Preshil – the Margaret Little Memorial School. [council.president@preshil.vic.edu.au](mailto:council.president@preshil.vic.edu.au)**