



15 September 2014

Message from the Executive Director

I am saddened to advise that a former staff member, Alan Pollock, has pleaded guilty to a number of serious historical offences in the 1980s relating to students from two of our Catholic schools.

I am deeply sorry for those whose trust and innocence were so grievously violated in our schools. The safety and wellbeing of young people in our care is our highest priority and we take very seriously any breach by school personnel. Child sexual abuse leaves lasting damage on the lives of those who have suffered abuse and their families and I offer our assistance and support.

In addition to our own protocols and processes we are working with the newly established Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards. The Office is working across all agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta to implement further proactive strategies to educate clergy, religious leaders and staff; provide increased transparency and accountability in the process of managing professional standards issues; and most importantly, provide support or assistance for those who have suffered abuse and their families. The Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards can be contacted via 8838 3419 or email pdavis@parra.catholic.org.au

If you have any concerns or allegations of a criminal nature please take them directly to the NSW Police. Support services are also available via CatholicCare Social Services via their **Helpline on (02) 9933 0233**.

Please pray for the families affected by child sexual abuse that they may find healing and justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whitby'.

Gregory B Whitby
Executive Director of Schools
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta