



Our Ref: O HO 0227

Statement from the Christian Brothers Oceania

- Canberra Times 10 May 2016

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When the Christian Brothers and St Edmund's first became aware of the sentencing of Mr Cable in 2015, an immediate review of records found no complaint against him in his time at the school and there has been no complaint since.

We strongly urge the Canberra Times or any person who may hold any evidence of criminal conduct at the school to refer that to the Police for the proper investigation.

Given there was no knowledge of his offending elsewhere until 2015, the Christian Brothers and the school simply had no information in 1978 to support any of the assumptions made in the questions about his employment at the time.

To reiterate, neither the Christian Brothers nor the school has any record of any complaint of abuse against the individual at any time during or after his employment.

In respect of civil settlements made in the second matter raised, the Christian Brothers underpin the approach to civil complaints with a victim focused approach which seeks to resolve matters quickly, recognising the settlement of civil claims do not constitute criminal findings.

Two civil settlements have been made and as part of one settlement the request to change a 'house name' was agreed to in order to facilitate the healing of the complainant and to resolve their issue.

To any person who has suffered abuse at any of our facilities, the Christian Brothers Oceania extends our unreserved apology.

Our approach since the early 1990s to these matters has been to encourage those with complaints to come forward and our response mirrors the now recommended approach of the Royal Commission, namely personal apology, counselling and monetary payments.

St Edmund's is an Edmund Rice Education Australia School that has in place best practice child protection guidelines and rigorous employment processes that are backed by staff training and compliance with all legislated safeguards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all its students.

The Christian Brothers Oceania encourage any person who has suffered abuse at any of our facilities, to contact the Professional Standards Office in Melbourne on (03) 8359 0134.



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Note:

All comments are attributed to the 'Christian Brothers Oceania Province'.

Statements are published on the website of the Christian Brothers Oceania.

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