



## **Statement regarding the sentencing of Mr Mark Irwin**

12 October, 2021

On Friday 25 June Mark Irwin, former Director of Music at The Geelong College was found guilty of sexual abuse of a student of the College, approximately 20 years ago. In a further hearing today in the County Court, he was sentenced to serve a maximum of five and a half years in jail.

The College has assisted the police with the investigation, and immediately suspended Mr Irwin's employment on learning of the allegations.

We are truly sorry for the abuse suffered by the victim, and others in our care. We recognise the harmful effects of sexual abuse upon our former students, and we continue our committed endeavours to support each survivor of abuse with care, sensitivity and dignity, and in the manner most appropriate for their healing.

The Geelong College is committed to ensuring that every child in our care is safe and well cared for. For several years, we have been working with staff and our community, as well as students, to ensure a child safe culture prevails and to ensure such incidents do not happen again. All of our staff have undergone extensive child protection training and education, over and above the mandated child safety policies and procedures.

The College continues to encourage any former students who may have been affected by abuse here to seek assistance by contacting our Independent Facilitator, Pauline Ryan, on 1800 260 038. Alternatively, they can contact the Principal directly on (03) 5226 3107, or the Geelong Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) on (03) 5246 8101. Their enquiry will be welcomed and respected.

