



19 February 2020

Dear Members of the St Kevin's College Community

I write to you today in my capacity as Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), the governing body of St Kevin's College, to advise you of key leadership changes at the College.

Mr Stephen Russell has resigned from his role as Headmaster of St Kevin's, effective immediately. It is important that we acknowledge the selfless contribution that Stephen has made and his commitment to St Kevin's College and EREA over many years. We wish Stephen, his wife Kate and their family well as they move on to a new phase of their lives.

I am announcing the immediate appointment of Mr John Crowley, currently Principal of St Patrick's College Ballarat, as the Acting Headmaster of St Kevin's College for 2020.

John is a very experienced Principal and acknowledged leader in Catholic education. He has extensive experience in educating boys and places a very high emphasis on the academic, wellbeing and spiritual development of students. He is very highly regarded in the educational and broader community for his leadership.

John is also well known as a trusted advocate for victims and survivors of abuse and was a significant contributor to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. John has our full confidence and will be strongly supported in his work of both responding to the challenges that have recently been raised for the College and ensuring that the academic, wellbeing and spiritual care of the students remain a priority.

Luke Travers has been formally stood down from the College pending further investigations of issues raised during the Four Corners program.

Two teachers who are currently under EREA investigation, are also not presently at the school until further notice, until those investigations are complete. I urge you to understand that details of any investigation, including the identities of those involved, must remain private to ensure natural justice occurs.

EREA accepts the gravity of the matters raised in recent days. Business as usual is not an option for St Kevin's in response to these issues, which need to be addressed as a matter of priority. It is clear that what has occurred has fallen short of what the community expects, and what we expect of ourselves.

No student should ever have to go through what Paris Street did and no family should either. We are so sorry and we let you down. Importantly, it must be stated that we find the crimes of Peter Kehoe abhorrent and we strongly condemn all behaviour of this nature. Further to this, we wish to acknowledge the suffering and distress caused to Paris Street and his family, as a result of Kehoe's crimes. I have reached out to Paris and his family to offer our ongoing support.

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During Monday's Four Corners program, we heard from young people who shared their disturbing accounts of distress, pain and disempowerment. They made a plea for an education that empowers them to challenge what is dehumanising and wrong. As educators, we hear these voices and commit further to this empowerment of the young through the education we provide them. For most members of the St Kevin's community, watching the program was a distressing and challenging experience. However, what was not heard, were the voices of the thousands of hard-working people in the St Kevin's community – parents, staff, past parents and Old Collegians – who strive to create a positive culture and opportunities for a deeply committed student body, each and every day.

As a national family, we express our support for you, at a time when your community is experiencing pain and distress. This is a time for humility and reflection, but also action.

As the governing body we will be initiating an independent cultural review of St Kevin's to further understand current issues, and importantly, how we can take action to address them. We will keep our community updated regarding the cultural review.

Please know that the safety and wellbeing of students and young people is at the centre of all we do. We have an unshakable commitment to embracing the recommendations of the Royal Commission and to the support of all victims and survivors of abuse. We have very clear expectations of all our schools in relation to the paramount importance of child safety.

We have confidence in and are deeply committed to a vibrant and caring St Kevin's College community; its hard-working parents, committed staff and dedicated students. EREA will continue to work closely with the College community to ensure that your boys will have the highest quality of care, safety and wellbeing.

Our hearts might feel heavy but our spirit is not. It marks a fresh, new era for St Kevin's College as we get back to focusing on what really matters – care for our students, our purpose and core values.

The courage of Paris Street and Ned O'Brien should bring us closer together, not divide us. We must do better and we will – together as one St Kevin's College family.

May we work together during this time of challenge with renewed confidence and resolve to form young men who will forge a more respectful and compassionate Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Tinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Dr Wayne Tinsey**  
**Executive Director**  
**Edmund Rice Education Australia**