



## ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING

### STATEMENT OF COLLEGE on SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

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**“The community of St Monica’s College, Epping acknowledges the atrocity of sexually abusive offences that many children in Australia and other countries have suffered as a result of criminal behaviour of adults.**

**Over and above all else in this matter, our College’s response is support for these abused children, no matter when or how the abuses occurred. Our College community contends in the strongest terms that the abused children and the effects that abuse brought upon them are the primary focus of our support in any way it is sought or required.**

**Nothing connected to these abuses compares in importance with the abuse suffered by minors and the after-effects that have resulted in their lives.**

**The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse issued its report in December 2017. Its findings and recommendations have been studied and often debated by many institutions, including the Catholic Church. Importantly, there was found to be a massive failure to protect children from sexual abuse by predators. Abuse was found to be systematic in many instances.**

**St Monica’s College, Epping is a Catholic school that seeks always to be faithful to the Gospels of Jesus Christ. As a logical consequence, our community is tainted as a result of Catholic perpetrators’ actions: we are ashamed and appalled by their actions and support legal actions pursued against these abusers. Many children were abused sexually by people who held institutional authority and/or were ordained ministers.**

**We pray with perseverance and profound sincerity for those children of whatever decade whose innocence, future and prospects were destroyed or diminished substantially by the actions of Catholic Church paedophiles and predators.”**