



Board of Inquiry into historical child sexual abuse in Beaumaris Primary School and certain other government schools

Statement from the Board of Inquiry on National Survivors' Day

Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Today, the Board of Inquiry into Historical Child Sexual Abuse in Beaumaris Primary School and Certain Other Government Schools joins with victim-survivors and their families, friends, and supporters to commemorate National Survivors' Day.

This significant day recognises the profound harm caused by child sexual abuse and the enduring stigma that it carries. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the collective responsibility we all carry in keeping children safe and preventing such abuse occurring in the future.

We recognise and honour the remarkable strength, resilience, and courage of all victim-survivors of child sexual abuse, including those who are no longer with us. We also acknowledge that this Board of Inquiry stands as a testament to the tireless advocacy of victim-survivors who have bravely shared their stories and experiences, becoming a powerful voice for many.

As part of our work, we have listened to and learned from victim-survivors and secondary victims. While our focus is to support a process of healing for those who share their stories with us, we are equally committed to developing a shared understanding among all Victorians about the far-reaching and lifelong impacts of historical child sexual abuse.

We hope that understanding these lifelong stories will help foster empathy and compassion, reduce stigma, and encourage victim-survivors and communities to seek support without fear or judgement.

No child should ever endure any form of abuse. By increasing awareness, promoting recognition and available supports, we hope to shape a future that is safer for every child.

On this National Survivors' Day, we stand with everyone who has experienced child sexual abuse.

Kathleen Foley SC

Chair, Board of Inquiry into historical child sexual abuse in Beaumaris Primary School and certain other government schools

For media enquiries, please contact media@beaumarisinquiry.vic.gov.au.