



MEDIA RELEASE

14 July 2023

Jesuit found guilty of historic offending

The trial of Fr Theo Overberg SJ has concluded with a verdict of guilty on three charges of indecent assault.

The charges were laid in relation to offences when Fr Overberg was a teacher at St Ignatius' College Riverview in the mid-1970s.

The corporal punishment was not acceptable. We regret that it occurred, and we apologise to the individuals, who were children at that time. Corporal punishment was discontinued at our schools several decades ago.

This case is a testament to the need to be vigilant about protecting the young people we work with and are entrusted to our care. Today, in our schools and other settings, there are policies and procedures, as well as independent oversight, of the professional standards that apply to any person who works or volunteers with, young people.

We encourage anyone who would like further information on matters relating to professional standards in Jesuit environments to visit <https://jesuit.org.au/professional-standards/>

Media enquiries:

David McMahon
Province Communications Manager
+61 474 190 006

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Information on support and reporting

The Society of Jesus urges any person who has any evidence of criminal conduct – no matter how long ago it occurred - to report that to their local Police or contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Australian Province of the Society of Jesus and all its ministries are participating institutions in the National Redress Scheme which can be contacted on 1800 737 377 or www.nationalredress.gov.au

Any person who has experienced abuse in any of our ministries can contact our Professional Standards Office on 03 9810 7300 to make a complaint.