



OLD SYDNEIANS' UNION

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23 March 2021

STATEMENT TO OSU COMMUNITY

Dear Old Sydneians

No doubt by now many of you have become aware, in varying degrees, of Chanel Contos and the issues of sexual assault and other toxic behaviour of students at many independent schools.

On 5 March I had the opportunity to meet with Chanel Contos, via Zoom from London, with 23 other alumni heads and representatives, to hear her story and her message. Chanel is a former Kambala student and has two older brothers who are Old Sydneians. A victim herself of sexual assault at the age of 13, Chanel has shown incredible courage and determination in telling her story and inviting others to share their stories through social media. I am grateful that she has brought these issues into the light. The stories posted on the Instagram site set up by Chanel are deeply disturbing.

Chanel's primary message is that as a group, we need to focus on education of students in matters of sexual consent earlier.

Chanel raises complex and serious issues around consent education, victim blaming/shaming, sexual coercion, societal pressures and a particular vulnerability of LGBTQI+ students. All these issues need to be addressed collectively and thoughtfully.

Following this first meeting of alumni heads, we have agreed to build on the momentum created by Chanel to share ideas and develop actions that can be taken by alumni associations both in conjunction with our respective schools, our members, parents and with parents' associations. We will continue to meet to formulate actions that can be taken to address the current issues and effect long-lasting change in relation to these issues.

Accompanying this message is a statement issued by Dr Malpass which provides an update, in greater detail of what steps and actions the School has and will continue to take in order to address these issues.

Together, the OSU and the School are committed to ensuring that these issues are addressed within the Grammar community and hopefully more broadly.

If any Old Sydneian wishes to comment or raise any matter in relation to these issues, please send an email to me at the email address at president@osu.com.au

Yours faithfully

Walter MacCallum (1987)
President Old Sydneians' Union