

Today, we collectively acknowledge the tragic and widespread abuse of children and young people in government and non-government institutions, and stand in solidarity with those who have endured terrible wrong and deep suffering.

The five-year Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which delivered its findings in December, found that victims and survivors were not always believed or that they were deliberately ignored.

The national apology sends an important message to victims and survivors that we hear you and we see you. It speaks volumes to say that, as a nation, we are deeply sorry for the fear, intimidation, abuse and violence experienced by so many, and the lifelong impact this has had.

Victims and survivors suffered abuse in a range of institutional settings, where they were meant to be safe from harm, where they should have led happy and healthy lives. Sadly, this was not the case, and they have carried this trauma throughout their lives.

Western Port Secondary chooses to mark this historic national moment by sending a message of solidarity for past victims across the school community and reminds our community that the Department of Education and Training is committed to keeping children and young people safe and protected while they are in the care of our early childhood centres, schools and higher education services.

Our College has a Child Safe Policy which is available on this site to further outline how we are working to keep every young person safe.