



# St Paul's College

## University of Sydney

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### FROM ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

17 November, 2009

As the Warden of St Paul's College Dr Ivan Head immediately made clear in his initial statement issued on 11 November, the Council of St Paul's College deplors the sentiments reported to be expressed on a private Facebook site in recent media reports and which are at odds with the College's aims and ethos.

After viewing copies of some of the Facebook material in question for the first time last Friday (which was when the material was made available) the College has made inquiries and established that:

- The Facebook site was created in the service of a social sports team entered in a soccer competition and its Administrator was a former St Paul's resident;
- Through their involvement in the same sporting team, a small number of current St Paul's residents accepted an invitation to join the Facebook group;
- The police have advised College Warden Dr Ivan Head there appear to be no legal implications flowing from information appearing on the Facebook site.

The College is undertaking further investigations and will determine what disciplinary action may be required.

In the meantime, the College has moved swiftly to address the broader issues of College culture by taking the following steps:

- The College has repeated its warning to residents against engaging in online forums, particularly those that demean women and reiterating that relations with women on and off campus are to be guided at all times by dignity and respect.
- In conjunction with The University of Sydney, the College is reviewing its policies, procedures and educational materials for the conduct and behaviour of its residents, including in relation to sexual harassment, alcohol consumption and use of social media. We are determined these should mirror best practice and be appropriate to contemporary standards. Residents (new and returning) will be required to confirm in writing their intention to comply with these policies and procedures.
- Reiterating to all St Paul's residents that respect for the dignity and equality of women is non-negotiable at the College, and that all residents are expected to uphold and act on this principle.
- The College will be strengthening the emphasis given to appropriate behaviour toward women in its program for incoming residents during University Orientation Week early next year, inviting addresses by external experts and reviewing planned events to ensure they align with College values and principles.
- Following a unanimous resolution passed by the St Paul's College Students' Club last week, the College is proceeding with sponsorship of and engagement in the White Ribbon campaign, in support of efforts globally to stop violence against women.

St Paul's remains concerned about an allegation raised on ABC TV Stateline last week, concerning matters never raised with the College. We urge strongly that if any person has a complaint requiring police attention, it be referred to police for proper investigation.

ENDS