



Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS AND STAFF

In December 2010, a child was abused in a western suburbs school. This was reported to the police, the perpetrator was removed from contact with children and he was charged, convicted and put in jail.

Other parents should be informed when incidents like this occur in their school, but that did not happen.

The Government accepts responsibility for parents not being told earlier and we are sorry for the distress this caused.

On 1 November 2012, we appointed retired Supreme Court Justice, the Honourable Bruce DeBelle AO QC, to investigate what happened and to provide recommendations about how to ensure this does not happen again.

Keeping our children safe is something this Government takes extremely seriously.

The Government has now received the DeBelle Report and supports all of the recommendations in principle and we will begin work immediately on their implementation.

During Mr DeBelle's Inquiry, the Government took a number of steps to strengthen protections and keep children safe within schools. These included announcing tougher screening procedures for teachers and others working with children, appointing a Deputy Chief Executive for Child Safety within the Department for Education and Child Development, more staff in the Government's background screening unit and more staff in the Special Investigations Unit.

Further information about all of these matters, including a copy of the Royal Commission Report, can be found at: www.decd.sa.gov.au/educationinquiry.

As we continue to examine and respond to the report, be assured the welfare of children is our first priority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jay Weatherill'.

Jay Weatherill
PREMIER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jennifer Rankine'.

Jennifer Rankine
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

17/12/2013