

A Message from the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia

24 July 2026

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians

In recent weeks, you may have read reports in the media about the Christian Brothers Oceania Province's serious financial problems.

The Christian Brothers were the founders of Edmund Rice Education Australia's charism in Australia. In 2007, EREA was established as a separate entity and entrusted with responsibility for governing, operating and stewarding the schools solely for the advancement of its educational mission.

The Christian Brothers have revealed that their financial issues mean they will be unable to meet their future obligations to victims and survivors of historic abuse committed by disgraced former members of their congregation.

Many young people were harmed by systemic abuse. The Christian Brothers have acknowledged and apologised for their part in the hurt and pain caused to these young people.

Under the foundational arrangement establishing EREA, historic sexual abuse claims against the Christian Brothers prior to October 1, 2007, were exclusively handled by the Christian Brothers Oceania Province. Edmund Rice Education Australia had responsibility for any claims made after 2007.

We are writing to you today because the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia have made the decision to support a revised scheme of arrangement with the Christian Brothers that will compensate victims and survivors of historical abuse claims against the Christian Brothers in full.

We support the revised scheme because it is simply the right thing to do for victims and survivors to provide them a just and sustainable pathway.

These complex arrangements will take six to eight weeks to document before being put to creditors to vote on, and then to the court for approval. The Trustees of EREA are committed to ensuring this occurs as expeditiously as possible.

While the proposed scheme requires these approvals as a condition to it being implemented, EREA considers that the terms of the new scheme of arrangement will result in a fair and just outcome for victims and survivors.

EREA touchstones are justice and solidarity and inclusive community and we are committed to ensuring the victim-survivors' journey of healing continues. We sincerely hope today's decision contributes to making things right for those who have suffered abuse.

It is also critically important to the Trustees that the education ministry entrusted to their stewardship continues to flourish for all students now and into the future.

We want to assure all 44,000 students, young people, parents and staff at EREA's 61 schools across Australia that they will continue to operate.

It is our fundamental responsibility to ensure our schools remain strong, stable and focused on their educational mission and the safety of children, young people and adults enrolled in our schools is our highest priority.

Finally, the Trustees appreciate that today's decision and discussion on the subject of historic abuse may trigger emotional responses. If that is the case, please reach out to the Principal's office at your school to organise confidential help.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Brown
Chair
Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia



Dr Michael Slattery KSG
President
Edmund Rice Education Australia