



Wesley College Endorses Review Findings

29 November 2017

Wesley College today welcomed the Broderick Review findings on the environment and student experience at Wesley College, which were part of a wider review by the Broderick Project Team of five of the six University of Sydney Colleges.

The Broderick Cultural Renewal Review has provided Wesley College with an Individual Report as well as releasing an Overarching Report to the University that has made several recommendations under four main principles across the five participating Colleges.

Wesley College acknowledges and accepts the recommendations contained within both these Reports and will implement them within the College's existing policies on culture and governance for its students.

Commenting on the two reports, the Chair of the Wesley College Council Mrs Deborah Page AM said the Wesley Council will meet next week to finalise an action plan in response to the recommendations, which the College expects to be implemented fully in 2018.

"We acknowledge that there are areas for further improvement as reflected in the comments by some students who participated in the survey conducted by the Broderick Project team. As Wesley College finalises its action plan it will remain committed to zero tolerance policies on any unacceptable behaviour," Mrs Page said.

Commenting on the Wesley specific recommendations, the Master, Mrs Sutherland acknowledged the report highlighted that the community wide issue of alcohol consumption needed constant focus within the College, and Wesley was committed to continuous improvement of its programs and policies.

"Wesley has strict policies around alcohol and its service and we strive to ensure that our students are entitled to youthful fun, minus inappropriate behaviour," Mrs Sutherland said.

"We do not operate an open bar at the College, our events are for Wesley students only and as such, we enforce strict supervision of licensing personnel and ensure that we have the required level of external, professional security at every event. The Report does highlight for us, however, a number of areas we need to make more robust around our event management and alcohol and we will be addressing these issues as a priority."

Mrs Sutherland also acknowledged that the Wesley Report provided feedback that, while Wesley has a zero tolerance policy on any unacceptable behaviour, it needed to review and update the language in its policies, particularly in the area of sexual misconduct.

"The College is committed to ensuring that the recommendations on sexual misconduct are carried out and it has already taken steps to address this issue," Mrs Sutherland said.

Wesley College

Western Avenue
The University of Sydney NSW 2006
+61 2 9565 3333
wesleycollege-usyd.edu.au



The Broderick Review found that Wesley College, led by the Master in consultation with student leaders, has instituted a number of changes to life at the College prior to the Review commencing.

“The Project Team commends the College on this progress and notes that a number of the Project Team’s recommendations build on these recent College cultural change initiatives. These changes include:

- Greater accountability of students who engage in unacceptable behaviour
- Stricter oversight concerning activities in O Week
- Dismantling some of the more negative aspects of the student hierarchy
- Bringing forward student elections to early second semester to ensure a smoother transition of leadership, including increased guidance for incoming leaders on their responsibilities ”

“In making such changes, Wesley College has built on its considerable strengths, including the diversity of its student body, the deep sense of belonging felt by the majority of students, and the breadth of extracurricular activities offered to students,” the report on Cultural Renewal at Wesley found.

The report also confirmed that all student leaders at Wesley College, including Resident Advisers, are provided with a range of professionally led training courses including Mental Health First Aid, and Bystander Training as well as information sessions on Harassment, Bullying and Consent.

Mrs Sutherland said: “The Wesley College Individual Report confirms that the College’s cultural renewal has been very effective to date. Following receipt of our Individual Report, we can focus clearly on the matters that have been identified that need to shift further and continue to work on these areas specifically to achieve the best outcomes for our student community.”

In conclusion, Mrs Page and Mrs Sutherland thanked the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of The University of Sydney for initiating the Broderick Review and the Broderick Team for their collaborative and open approach, allowing all students the ability to participate in the Review.

“We are confident this review will result in further improvements on the campus and within the College Community to address community concerns about the safety and behaviour of students.”

Deborah Page AM
Chair
Wesley College

Lisa Sutherland
Master
Wesley College