

PRESS STATEMENT: 3 September 2013

For Immediate Publication



Maccabi Australia Board commits to a review

On Monday 26 August 2013, the Board of Maccabi Australia committed to undertake a formal and independent review of the organisation's handling of matters relating to the sexual assault of Maccabi members by Mr Shannon Francis. The scope of the review will examine events from 1999 and 2000 when the offences took place, and more recently from 2011 and 2012 when Shannon Francis was arrested and committed to trial.

The Board's commitment to an independent review was made on the back of listening to the victims who have expressed their concerns about the Maccabi organisation's internal processes and actions. The MAI Board treats such concerns with the utmost seriousness and compassion.

The Board have approached respected members of the community who are independent of Maccabi to form the review panel. The intention is to have this panel commence their review as soon as possible with the objective of producing its findings by no later than November 2013 (at which point a public statement will be issued by the independent panel).

The mandate under which the committee will operate is consistent with Maccabi values and that is to ensure that the process is open, transparent and appropriately conducted. The scope of the review is to include:

1. an investigation of the specific issues raised by the victims in this case and
2. provide Maccabi Australia with guidance on how it might handle any such matter in the future.

Once the panel has been appointed the MAI board will make further announcements. For further information, please contact Lisa Borowick on 0407 7440299 or via the Maccabi Australia office on (03) 9563 5865.

MACCABI AUSTRALIA INC. ABN 99 643 176 941

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