Dear Parents and Friends of CBC,

I bring to your attention a matter which was brought to the attention of the College last night.

The College was informed by the Adelaide City Council via an email of a situation in Park 15/Ityamai-Itpinna which is the park used by our Junior Campus.

I immediately contacted the College Board Chair, College Executive, Edmund Rice Education Australia and Catholic Education South Australia, in line with established procedures.

The Council statement reads:

*In the last 48 hours, Adelaide City Council has detected contamination in soils in Park 15/Ityamai-Itpinna. This was identified as part of routine preparatory works ahead of a planned upgrade to the park.*

*The contamination was not previously known to Council.*

The presence of the contaminants is consistent with many urban areas where fill materials from older industry and street sweepings are present. In this instance the contamination has been identified as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

While the concentrations of PAHs vary across Park 15/Ityamai-Itpinna, and some levels exceed generic soil guidelines, this does not automatically mean there is a risk to the health of people using the park or who have previously used the site. Based on the specialist advice received to date, it is unlikely that members of the public who have accessed and used the park have been exposed to unacceptable levels of risk.

What it does mean, is that it is important that additional work is undertaken to fully understand the contamination at the site so that we can implement appropriate measures to fully remediate the environment and ensure there is no risk of any future exposures. While this work is undertaken, access to the Park 15 play space has been temporarily closed.

ACC will continue working with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), in its role as the environmental regulator, to ensure the appropriate method to fully remediate the site for public use is implemented.

I reiterate the advice that:

*It is unlikely that members of the public who have accessed and used the park have been exposed to unacceptable levels of risk.*

The College will be advised by the Adelaide City Council when the park will be reopened.

I am meeting with the Council at their earliest convenience to ascertain the facts and ramifications of this statement and will keep parents posted via the College Website, Facebook, SMS or written correspondence.

I have also visited every Junior Campus classroom to explain the situation with students and staff. Given today is a 39 degree day the College Hot Weather Policy will come into effect and our air-conditioned classrooms will
be used by students during all their scheduled breaks as an alternative to outside. When the temperature subsides, the rooftop playing area and courtyard will provide space for children’s play areas. The Senior Campus Gym and Sportsfield will be made available for Junior PE lessons, sports training and as required. The departure of our Year 11/12 students and later our Year 10 boys will free space at the Senior Campus which will also be used as an alternative space to Park 15.

I will keep our community posted as soon as any further information comes to hand. Please do not hesitate to email any questions to my Executive Assistant Jenny Dunncliff at jdunncliff@cbc.sa.edu.au.

The wellbeing of every member of our community is of paramount importance to us at CBC. We abide by strict policies and practices and undertake extensive and ongoing training of our staff to ensure procedures are in place to protect the children in our care.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Noel Mifsud
Principal