

**Statement from Cranbrook School  
On behalf of former Cranbrook Council Chair Helen Nugent  
1 March 2024**

**1. Did any council members raise any concerns regarding the extension of Mr Sampson's contract and/or paying him a bonus, given the criticism he received from the Royal Commission regarding his role in the GGS case?**

In December 2015, given that the Royal Commission hearings were still underway and that a contractual obligation existed to advise the Headmaster whether his contract would be renewed, Council unanimously supported the renewal of Mr Sampson's contract, subject to there being "no significant adverse findings" by the Royal Commission. Council had proactively communicated with the School community about the issues raised in the Royal Commission.

*FOUR CORNERS NOTE:*

*Q.2 has been removed as it is no longer relevant to the broadcast program*

**3. The council extended Mr Sampson's contract despite the Royal Commission making multiple findings which were critical of Nicholas Sampson. The council had previously told Mr Sampson that an extension of his tenure was only agreed on the basis there were no "significant adverse findings" against him by the Royal Commission. Do you believe it was appropriate that his contract remained in place given the criticism that had been levelled against him at the Royal Commission, and the findings by the Commission that he kept an accused paedophile in his job until the end of the year, paid him \$64,000 for the following year's contract in which he didn't work, did not (and should have, on the commission's finding) alert the Victorian Institution of Teaching and in circumstances where no records of the later-convicted paedophile's real reasons for leaving were left at the school?**

Dr Nugent left Council in May 2016.