



**ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL**

Founded 1885

1 April 2011

As Principal of St Paul's Grammar School, Penrith, NSW, I worked from 1997-2009 with David Lindsay and Rowena Bragg. For most of this time, they were respectively Head and Deputy Head of the Senior School. As part of their roles, they developed a spectacular Student Service Program, targeted particularly at Year 11. The program became the centrepoint of compassionate student service within the school, and intrinsic to its culture.

Year after year, whole cohorts were deeply committed to these service opportunities. The experiences were transformative for large numbers of them, who grew from largely self-obsessed teenagers into young adults with a global awareness and an understanding of the plight of many Third World peoples. In this way, the program developed by David and Rowena was inspirational.

The opportunities organised by the students rotated around two key commitments:

- Each successive Year 11 assumed responsibility for fundraising in support of a specific aid project in the Congo. This consisted of developing infrastructure for a rural school, and supporting (literally, with funds for basic foodstuffs), over 270 orphans. The critical need for this support, and the human dimensions, captured the imagination of students. The effect of their work was well supported by photographic and anecdotal evidence. Moneys were provided directly to an Anglican Bishop on the ground in the area, with strong acquittal and accountability processes.
- Year 11 students were given the opportunity, at cost, to travel annually with David, Rowena and other staff, to an International IB school in Moshi, Tanzania, where they were deployed within a secure compound to undertake physical infrastructure work to assist schools and villages. They enjoyed the extensive contact with young African children and understood they were the current custodians of this work, literally building on what previous groups had done.

David and Rowena operated within a commendable philosophy of character growth through service, of transforming hearts and minds. Although the recipients benefited from the work of each cohort of senior students, in many ways, the Australian students were the main beneficiaries, as they grew as people through learning to serve and expanding their horizons.

David Lindsay and Rowena Bragg have very extensive experience, both in structuring service programs and on the ground in Africa. They are now offering their experience to other schools. I commend them strongly to you.

Dr John Collier

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HEAD OF SCHOOL