

Media Statement by Campus Living Villages

Thursday 26 September 2019

The Group Managing Director of Campus Living Villages, John Schroder, today again expressed his sorrow and extended his sympathies to the family of the deceased young man at Sonoda Village.

Mr Schroder said: "The loss of any life is tragic and the loss of a young life in such circumstances is heart-rending. We owe it to him and his family to make sure we find out exactly what happened.

"If something needs to change in the way we operate our services – my assurance is we will do it. We can never eliminate all risk, but we can, and we must do all we can to minimise it.

"The type of accommodation offered at Sonoda Village is designed to give students maximum independence and as such it doesn't involve the automatic interactions and checks of a fully serviced hall or residence.

"Our priority is, and always will be, the wellbeing of our students and staff. At all times we try to balance the wishes and rights of young adults with our role in providing a supportive environment."

Mr Schroder said all parties were working closely with the investigation being undertaken by the police, but the facts of this tragic matter may not be known for several weeks.

"Another consideration is the legal and regulatory framework of our privacy and residential laws, and whether there are any changes we would suggest.

"We are working with the University of Canterbury on a thorough investigation of systems and processes.

"While the police will determine the cause of death, our focus is on reviewing all our systems and processes and understanding why it took so long for the young man to be found."

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