

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 6 12 May 2023



**ST MARK'S  
COLLEGE**



**ADMINISTRATION**  
T +61 8 8632 2800  
F +61 8 8633 0104

**BENEDICT CAMPUS**  
T +61 8 8632 4735  
F +61 8 8633 0568

**BOSCO CAMPUS**  
T +61 8 8633 8812  
F +61 8 8633 0104

**SALESIAN HOUSE**  
T +61 8633 8803  
F +61 8633 0104

[www.smc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smc.catholic.edu.au)



Year 11 students raised an incredible \$21,615 for St Vincent de Paul through the Vinnies School Sleepout

Welcome back to Term 2. The beginning of a new term of learning gives us the opportunity to reflect on the learning and experiences so far and set goals and aspirations for the next 10 weeks. I have enjoyed hearing about holiday adventures from students as I have moved across the College the past 2 weeks.

Next week we look forward to welcoming College families and those people interested in learning more about our community at our Open Night. For people unfamiliar with St Mark's it is an opportunity to come in, have a look around and ask questions when all our staff have the time to share the work that we do.

Equally as important you as College families, have the opportunity to make connections with the many staff, students and activities that make our school a place that prepares students for life. Research has shown that students who have families that are actively engaged with their schooling achieve greater outcomes in learning and wellbeing. We look forward to spending quality time with you on Wednesday evening.

### Anzac Day Dawn Service

On Anzac Day, our College Captains Connor and Amity were joined by our Year 8 and 6 students learners at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Port Pirie War Memorial Gates. Our students had the honour of reading the narratives of fallen veterans, laying the poppies and hanging a wreath. The service was a wonderful tribute to those who have served our country. For our students

involved, it was honour to attend and be part of this service.

### Mother's Day

This weekend we have the opportunity to celebrate all mothers and motherly figures. Mrs Annie Olsen has worked with the parish to plan a Family Mass on Saturday evening in recognition of the occasion. Mothers are the deepest expression of love. They are the eyes that see the true beauty in a child. They are the heart that always hopes and the person who powerfully protects. They are their child's greatest advocate. Happy Mother's Day.

With every good wish for Term 2

Mrs Katie Pole, **Acting Principal**



Our SRC Representatives handed out chocolates to Mum's and Nanna's for Mother's Day



# Faith and Mission



Morning prayer in the Reception Blue classroom

## Vinnies School Sleepout

Hard floors, bright lights, lack of silence, cold temperatures and discomfort were a harsh reality for our Year 11 students on Thursday 4 May as they slept rough for the night. This experience coupled with their learning through the SACE Subject Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning has resulted in more than \$20,000 being raised for the people living with homelessness in our local area. A presentation by representatives from St Vincent De Paul Society on the night shared the gratitude people in need have for the work being done to support them through the toughest of times. Work that will now benefit from our students fundraising contributions. We, the teachers have had the honour of seeing these young leaders put themselves out there and work hard for such an important cause.

The students have learnt about the Catholic Social Teachings, in particular Preferential Option for the Poor, which in short means, some people need extra help. We are so proud of our students and thank our community for supporting them generously.

## Sacramental Program

Some students in Year 7 have been preparing for their Sacrament of Confirmation and have begun their

commitment mass. Each weekend students attend a parish mass to show their readiness to receive this sacrament and to ask for the support of their families and the parish. It is so wonderful to see them there each week. We keep them in our prayers as they finalise their preparations.

## Family Mass

Also, at Mass this weekend we will see more staff, students and families as we celebrate another Family Mass with our parish. This weekend we will celebrate together at 6.00pm on Saturday night at St Mark's Cathedral. We hope to see you there to offer a prayer to the mothers in our community on the eve of Mother's Day. It's a wonderful excuse to share a meal after.

## Prayer in our school

Our Receptions have been finding God in our school.

In the Boarding House our students share a prayer experience with our Bosco Staff once a week. This week the focus was Mother's Day and the Boarders had an opportunity to pray in colour using watercolour paints to make something for their Mum's and the members of our local Parish.

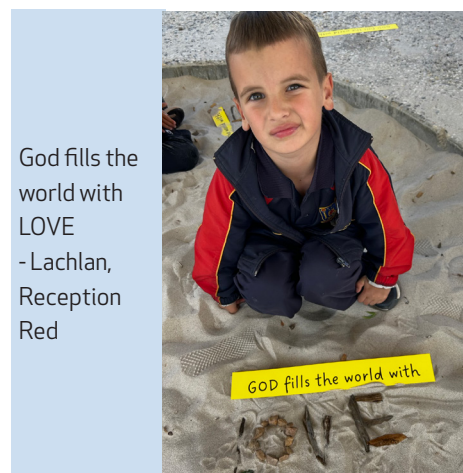
Mrs Annie Olsen, **APRIM**



God fills the world with LOVE  
- Imogen, Reception Red



Boarders made Mother's Day cards using watercolour paints



God fills the world with LOVE  
- Lachlan, Reception Red

## SOUTHERN CROSS:

Click [here for the latest edition](#).

## THE WITNESS:

Click [here for the latest edition](#).

# Key Dates and Campus Information



Our College Calendar is continuously being updated on our website: [www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/news/calendar](http://www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/news/calendar).  
Click to find the most accurate event information.

Week 3: 15/5 - 19/5					Week 4: 22/5 -26/5	
<b>Mon</b>	First Day Winter Uniform Students are required to wear the College Winter Uniform on non-PE days. The College Uniform Guidelines can be accessed here: <a href="http://www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/about/general-information">www.stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au/about/general-information</a>	Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp	Catholic Education Week #ILoveMy Catholic School	National Boarding Week	<b>Mon</b>	SAPSASA Football
<b>Tues</b>	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am Sports Council Benedict Library, 7.30pm				<b>Tues</b>	Confirmation Workshop Bosco Centre, 5.30 - 7.00pm
<b>Wed</b>	Year 7 Retreat Open Night Benedict + Bosco Campuses, 4.00 - 6.30pm McNally Farm, 4.00pm - 6.00pm				<b>Wed</b>	Mini Mark's Playgroup Little Lions Classroom, 9.00am - 10.30am College Board AGM Bosco Library, 7.00pm
<b>Thur</b>	Catholic Education Awards Night				<b>Thur</b>	Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day St Mark's Sports Centre, 11.30am
<b>Fri</b>	Little Lions Session 10 Cathedral Mass for Catholic Education Week St Mark's Cathedral, 12.00pm, All welcome				<b>Fri</b>	Little Lions Session 11 National Sorry Day + Scott Darlow Leaders' Forum 2R Excursion Confirmation Rehearsal St Mark's Cathedral, 2.00 - 3.00pm Confirmation Mass St Mark's Cathedral, Sunday 28 May, 10.30am

## Benedict Campus:

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to another busy term. There are many different learning opportunities for students this term inside their classrooms and out. Please check Operoo regularly for information about the various events this term.

As we welcome back staff and students this term, classrooms have been buzzing with new faces and sadly the loss of some. We wish Tom Reilly all the best as he begins his 6-week placement from Weeks 3-8. We look forward to hearing about the new learning you come away with from this time Tom.

At the end of this week, we said goodbye to Nicky Welch, the Benedict R-6 Inclusive Education Key Teacher. We thank Nicky for her knowledge she shared with us and wish her all the best on her new adventure.

Louise Richards notified the College that she will not be returning to the St Mark's College community after her leave at the end of this term. We thank Louise for her work with families and staff during her time with us and we wish her well for the future.

### Coming on to school grounds

We understand students may leave things at home or appointments crop up during the day. However, to ensure the safety of all our children in our school the policy states that if you enter the school grounds between the hours of 9am and 3pm you must report to the office. If you are dropping off belongings, we can arrange for these to be brought to your child. If you are collecting children early for various reasons, each classroom can be contacted, and students need to sign out at the iPad inside the office. We thank you for working with us to ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

# Key Dates and Campus Information



## PE Uniform and Sports Training

It has been approved that if a student has a 3.30pm training at school on a day that they do not wear their PE uniform, they are able to wear PE for the day.

However, if their training is 4.00pm onwards they will be required to get changed off campus.

## Strategies for Reading

On Monday night the Junior Primary team walked parents and caregivers through the InitialLit program we have begun using this year. Our Reception and Year 1 teachers have had training in this program during the first term and have been implementing InitialLit in their classrooms. InitialLit addresses reading, spelling and writing by:

- Actively teaching the relationships between sounds and letters
- Building vocabulary and comprehension skills through quality children's books
- Giving children lots of practice in reading, handwriting, spelling and writing activities

The InitialLit lesson is broken up into 3 sessions:

- On the mat – instructional teaching of concepts (whole class)
- Small group and independent work
- On the mat – shared storybook reading and activity (whole class)

You can support your child at home by:

- Lots of talking, listening and playing games with sounds
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes, teach tongue twisters and poems
- Tell stories, play board games and card games
- Reduce screen time
- Point out and talk about words and sounds in your child's environment – play "I Spy" on the way to school, point out words on street signs, clap along to the beat while listening to music in the car
- Talk about interesting words to develop vocabulary
- Read picture books with interesting stories to your child as often as possible
- Talk about the words used in the story, for example:
  - What do the words sound like?
  - Are they rhyming words?
  - What does that word mean?
- Talk about the **illustrations**
- Talk about **what happens in the story**, for example:
  - What do you think this book might be about?
  - What was your favourite part?

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

## LAPP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**ST MARK'S COLLEGE**

- Would you like to be involved with the Learning Assistance Partnership Program (LAPP) at Benedict?
- Would you like to work one to one with a student to help make their school life more rewarding and positive?

**Information Session**

**Date:** Monday Week 5, 29th of May

**Where:** Benedict Library

**Time:** 3.30pm

**For more information email:**  
[sgrapentin@smc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgrapentin@smc.catholic.edu.au)



# Key Dates and Campus Information



## Bosco Campus:

Bosco Campus has been alive with many exciting activities to start the term.

We were excited to welcome The Honourable David Speirs MP (Leader of The Liberal Party, South Australia and Member for Black), Sam Telfer MP - Member for Flinders, and Mayor Leon Stephens of Port Pirie Regional Council to the College this week to engage in discussions about regional education.

Our Year 7 students are busy with their sacramental learning. The learning will culminate in a Retreat Day. Some of our students are also participating in the Parish celebration of Confirmation which will complete their initiation into the parish catholic community.

Year 8 students are gearing up to dissect hearts in Science and they enjoyed sharing their planning with Opposition Leader David Spiers.

The students in Year 9 are continuing their Rite Journey program and have been supported by guest speakers to consider the type of person they want to be as they move into adulthood. I was also impressed with their leadership in Project Compassion fundraising!

This time of year in Year 10 becomes a big focus on Exploring their Identity and Futures. Preparations for Work Experience are well underway and today they are participating in the Careers Expo. A great opportunity for a discussion starter with your Year 10 student.

I was blown away by the efforts of our Year 11 cohort in supporting and advocating for the issue of Homelessness through the Vinnies School Sleepout event. The \$21,000 raised will fund a project with the Port Pirie Council and Vinnies to improve a local BBQ facility that supports people experiencing homelessness.

The Year 12 students are progressing towards completing major assessments. They are also busy undertaking social actions as part of their Religious Education Program. I have been impressed with their planning and management of the projects.

We also have our Ag Immersion program keeping students busy, Knock Out Sports competitions beginning and the Musical is progressing towards Production Week in August.

### Winter Uniform and Photo Day

On Monday of Week 3 all students will arrive at school in full winter uniform. A reminder that Bosco Photo Day is on Thursday June 15. Students are to be in their winter uniform on that day (not PE). Information regarding Photos will come out closer to the date in regards to ordering and expectations.

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

## College:



The College Board  
AGM will  
be held on  
Tuesday 23 May,  
7.00pm in the  
Bosco Library.  
All welcome!

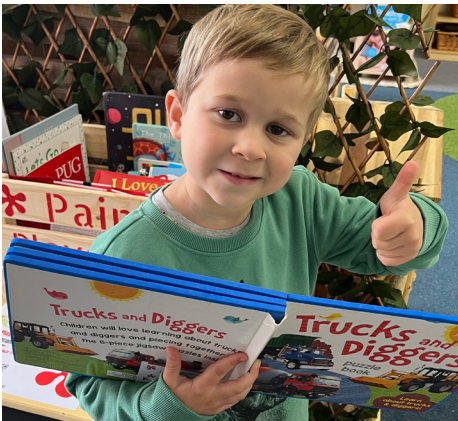
### Board Nominations - Introducing Shahzad David

My name is Shahzad David, I am from Pakistan and have been living in Port Pirie, South Australia for the last 15 years. I have three sons, all attending St Mark's College. I am an Australian Citizen and a Catholic Christian involved with the St Mark's Parish as an alter server with my sons Sherwin and Shoalin. My wife Isabella David and I are very blessed to be a part of the Catholic Parish and Catholic school. I am also member of Catholic Pastoral Council Committee with St Mark's Parish in Port Pirie.

# Benedict Campus



INDIGENOUS STUDIES > Reception Red with Aboriginal artist Judy Crosby showcasing their impressions of 'tracks in the sand'



MINI MARK'S > Mini Mark's Playgroup would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to our Benedict community for the donation of books for Paint the Town REaD promotion



SAPSASA > Congratulations to Mateisha, Max and Tyler who competed in SAPSASA swimming this week. Well done to Max who came second in the backstroke and to Max and Tyler who were second in the relay!

***Congratulations***  
to our Deputy Principal  
award winners:  
*For demonstrating an ability to  
get along with others*

<b>6R</b>	Peyton
<b>6B</b>	Sophie
<b>5G</b>	Tatum
<b>5R</b>	Sarah
<b>5B</b>	Luca
<b>4G</b>	Ruby
<b>4R</b>	Amy
<b>4B</b>	Bailey
<b>3R</b>	Annabelle
<b>3B</b>	Finlay
<b>2R</b>	Layla
<b>2B</b>	Delaney
<b>1G</b>	Scarlett
<b>1R</b>	Aria
<b>1B</b>	Liana
<b>RG</b>	Hugo
<b>RR</b>	Lachlan
<b>RB</b>	Sienna

Congratulations to all of our students who were recognised with 'RESPECT' College Value awards last term.



FRIENDSHIP > Year 2 classes have been identifying the qualities of a good friend as part of an exciting project. Year 12 students, Tom and Nicholas are repurposing a bench as a friendship bench for Benedict Campus and wanted to discuss their ideas with the Year 2s.



LITERACY > Literacy group work in 1 Blue



# Bosco Campus



**WELCOME** > We were excited to welcome the Honourable David Speirs MP, Sam Telfer MP, and Mayor Leon Stephens of Port Pirie Regional Council for a look at McNally Farm and Bosco Campus



**AGRICULTURE** > Year 10 Ag students collecting soil samples in the paddocks surrounding McNally Farm



**SCIENTIFIC STUDIES** > Year 4s enjoyed a morning of sideshow games created by our Year 10s who designed the games to directly influence the win-to-loss ratio



**RAP** > The message of road safety was shared with our Year 11 students in a presentation facilitated by Chris, SA MFS and Yudhi, crash survivor



**INDIGENOUS** > Secondary students engaged with our Year 1s during their 'Tracks in the Sand' workshop with Aboriginal artist Judy Crosby



## CONGRATULATIONS >

A number of students have recently excelled in individual pursuits:

- **Lucas** represented SA in Netball and was selected in the All Star Team
- **Alyssa** represented SA in the U15s State Hockey
- **Ella** designed the winning cover for the Crystal Brook Show book
- **Ryan** (Class of 2022)- Adelaide Uni Principal's Scholarship
- **Leana**- played the National Clay Court Championships in Canberra, she is in the top 10 nationally for tennis for her birth year and is going to Spain in September for the Rafa Nadal Academy
- **Saasha**- won the 2022/23 Super 10s tennis season and won the Barty award
- **Alex** - won a number of awards at the Carrieton Campdraft

We look forward to seeing these students achievements later in the year:

- **Harper**- selected for U19s Australian Softball and will compete in Canada during October
- **Darcy**- was selected for U16s SA School Sports State Hockey Competition in August

If you would like to share news about your child, email the College at:  
[info@smc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@smc.catholic.edu.au)





# College Notices



## OPEN NIGHT

Wednesday 17 May,  
4.00 - 6.30pm

- > CAMPUS TOURS
- > DEMONSTRATIONS
- > PERFORMANCES
- > INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES
- > FOOD + REFRESHMENTS (\$)

*We hope to see you there!*

## Community Notices

### National Careers Week Industry Sessions hosted by Uni Hub and Local Jobs Program

ATTN: YEAR 10 - 12 STUDENTS!

Interested in Engineering and Trades or Nursing and Health? Come along to an engaging industry session:

#### ENGINEERING AND TRADES

Wednesday 17 May, 11:30 am - 1:00pm

<https://engineeringandtrades.eventbrite.com>

#### NURSING AND HEALTH SECTOR

Thursday 18 May, 11:30 am - 1:00pm

<https://nursingandhealth.eventbrite.com>

### Guitar and Piano Lessons

Beginner guitar lessons

Beginner and Intermediate piano lessons

BOOK NOW! Learn a musical instrument and enjoy the huge benefits.

Vacancies currently on Mondays during school hours at Benedict Campus.

Contact Guitar/Piano Teacher  
Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840

### Hip Hop Bounce Term 2 Enrolments

Bounce into dance and cheer in 2023 at Hip Hop Bounce!

To enrol for Term 2 contact  
Kellie 0439 450 624  
[enrol@hoiphopbounce.com.au](mailto:enrol@hoiphopbounce.com.au)

### Questacon Pop-Up Science Centre at St Mark's Sports Centre

The Science Circus is rolling into Port Pirie on Wednesday 31 May 2023, 4.00 - 7.00pm with a Pop-Up Science Centre experience like no other!

- 30 hands on activities
- FREE event for all ages and family

Bookings are essential - visit [bit.ly/QSC-SA23](http://bit.ly/QSC-SA23) for tickets!

### Family Day at the Library

Wednesday 17 May, 10am - 2pm  
Port Pirie Regional Library- playgroup, sausage sizzle, craft activities, basket weaving, singing & storytime, emergency services and facepainting!

### Baby and Child First Aid Course

Saturday 27 May, 9.00am - 1.00pm

held in Gladstone - \$220pp

For bookings and enquiries contact  
Abbie 0427 891 786, or

[aligninbloombdoula@gmail.com](mailto:aligninbloombdoula@gmail.com)

### University of Adelaide Info Night

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf will be hosting an information night for the University of Adelaide in Port Pirie on Wednesday 17 May, 6.00-7.00pm. Register your attendance via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/port-pirie-uofa-information-night-tickets-600949495117>



# Weekly Specials

## BENEDICT CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = Fruit Box)	
<b>Week 3</b>				
Mon	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Egg and Bacon Pastry Roll	\$2.00	Sweet and Sour Pork + Rice + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Taco + Drink	\$2.50 \$4.50
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Chicken Cordon Bleu Burgers + Drink	\$6.20 \$8.00
<b>Week 4</b>				
Mon	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Snitzel and Gravy Rolls + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Tues	Pizza Triangles	\$2.00	Small Chicken Wrap + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Carbonara + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Hot Dogs + Drink	\$4.80 \$6.80
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Lamb or Chicken Yiros + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00

## BOSCO CAMPUS

	Recess:		Lunch: (Drink = 375ml Zero Can)	
<b>Week 3</b>				
Mon	Small Sausage Roll	\$2.00	Squash Dog + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Tues	Egg and Bacon Pastry Roll	\$2.00	Sweet and Sour Pork + Rice + Drink	\$6.00 \$8.00
Wed	OOK OOK	\$2.50	Pitta Bread Pizza + Drink	\$5.00 \$7.00
Thurs	Pizza Muffins	\$2.00	Taco's + Salad + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
Fri	3 mini Sausage Rolls + Drink	\$3.00 \$5.00	Cordon Bleu Burgers + Drink	\$6.20 \$8.00
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Mon	Rat Bait	\$2.00	Snitzel and Gravy Rolls + Drink	\$5.50 \$7.00
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Online Canteen Orders: [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au)

Flexischools: 1300 361 769

Metro Canteens: 0447 978 752



# A message from the Chief Public Health Officer



## Health risks of e-cigarettes / vapes

Dear Parents and Carers

As the Chief Public Health Officer but also as a parent and a paediatrician, I have been very concerned about young people's access, use and in some cases addiction to e-cigarettes/vapes. You may well have felt the same.

South Australian laws ban the general sale of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes but investigations have shown that regardless of what the packaging says, the vast majority of vapes found in Australia (including 'single-use vapes') contain nicotine and often in high amounts. Nicotine is colourless, odourless and tasteless and therefore extremely difficult to detect and police. Nicotine is a schedule 4 Prescription Only Poison because of its harmful effects on humans.

We are also seeing increasing numbers of parents ringing the Poisons Information line after finding very young children have either inhaled or ingested nicotine from e-cigarettes.

The nicotine in one e-cigarette is equal to 50 cigarettes and can be even higher. Nicotine is highly addictive and children with a nicotine dependency may have difficulties concentrating in class, difficulty sleeping, anxiety, irritability, restlessness, frustration, anger and strong cravings to relieve symptoms with repeat nicotine exposure.

If you find your child is vaping it would be natural to feel upset and even angry. Instead, I strongly encourage you to be as supportive as possible because your young person may find stopping very difficult, they will need your help and they may even need advice from a doctor or healthcare professional.

Alternatively, support your child to call Quitline anonymously on 13 78 48. Quitline is a child safe and child friendly service that will respect and support children and young people in age-appropriate ways, that are also culturally safe and inclusive.

SA Health is working with the Department for Education to implement a Vaping Action Plan. Strategies include information for students, teachers, and parents and carers on the harms of vaping and supports available, and improving guidance to schools on managing incidents involving vaping.

While smoking and vaping is prohibited at all school premises and activities in South Australia, it is important to remind your child that there will be no repercussions if they seek support from you or their school to stop vaping, or bring issues to the school's attention.

Reducing access to vapes is obviously key to protecting young people from nicotine addiction. I was delighted with the recent Commonwealth Government announcement to ban all e-cigarettes for recreational use and tighten border controls on these products. Soon, the only way to obtain any form of e-cigarette will be from a pharmacist on a doctor's prescription for smoking cessation.



Importantly, funding will also be allocated to help people to quit vaping and measures put in place to ensure those people do not take up smoking cigarettes instead. This will include supporting our children who have developed a nicotine addiction.

Carers and schools will continue to play an important role in the implementation of the State's Vaping Action Plan. Please visit the SA Health website at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vaping](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/vaping) where you will find a number of resources about vaping, including fact sheets for young people, parents and carers.

To learn more about the Vaping Action Plan, please visit the Department for Education's website at [www.education.sa.gov.au/vaping](http://www.education.sa.gov.au/vaping).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Spurrer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER**  
Chief Public Health Officer  
Public Health Division

9 / 5 / 2023