

Dear Mazenod community,

Following the elevation of Fr Peter Daly OMI from Rectorship of Mazenod College to Provincial in 2015, the Oblates appointed Mr John Payne as Acting Principal to guide the College during the 50th anniversary year of 2016. John's leadership and loyalty provided the Oblates and College time to prepare for the next era and in the following year, the first ongoing lay Principal, Mr Andrew Watson, was appointed in 2017. We have been blessed to have three outstanding lay leaders in that time. Simon Harvey followed Andrew Watson and has ably led and will continue to lead this College until 31st December 2025. Simon's commitment to ensuring that the charism of St Eugene de Mazenod is understood, honoured and lived daily is beyond reproach. He has continued to further enrich the offerings that our college has to offer the boys and has been deeply committed to ensuring that the community spirit that has been a hallmark of this college has been held to the fore.

It is with regret that we announce that Simon will be leaving Mazenod College at the end of 2025 to take on the principalship at Chisholm College. There will be time to fittingly farewell Simon later in the year.

A process commencing both at national and state levels will begin. I am very grateful that our current Board Chair, Mary Retel, has accepted the invitation to once again lead the important principal appointment process for the Oblates. Many of you know Mary who has significant experience both at principal, board and system level.

Whilst we shall be sad to see Simon leave, the College is blessed to have Oblates and a very dedicated and talented senior leadership team, who are supported by outstanding staff. The new principal will find her/himself warmly welcomed and will bring different insights and gifts to the College.

The Oblates enter the process with an open mind and hopes, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our Mother Mary, that a strong field of applicants committed to continuing the Oblate tradition in Lesmurdie, will come forward.

I look forward to being able to announce our future leader later in Term 3 2025 and to celebrating the 60th anniversary of Mazenod College in 2026. I thank you for the wonderful work that you all do and I will continue to hold you in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Andrew Chen O.M.I. | Provincial, Australian Province

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