

## NEWS

**BRINDABELLA COLLEGE** Watchdog grilled on why it didn't investigate further

# ASIC defends handling of complaints

**Nieve Walton**

THE Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) representatives have tried to explain their actions when community members raised concerns about Brindabella College's former owners.

In Senate estimates, independent senator David Pocock asked ASIC chair Joseph Longo why the commission chose not to investigate further after complaints were first raised in 2021.

Mr Longo said ASIC received thousands of com-

plaints each year and it was impossible to get to all of them.

"There will be thousands more where we will not take action because we do not think that is appropriate to, given our enforcement priorities, responsibilities and our mandate," Mr Longo said in estimates.

He told the economics committee on Wednesday, ASIC had the resources to look at 200 to 300 out of the thousands of complaints received.

"We try to help to the extent we can, but we're not a

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**ASIC chair Joseph Longo**

complaint-handling authority," Mr Longo said.

Mr Longo said ASIC needed to make judgments about the thousands of reports they receive.

"We cannot be every-

where," he said.

The college's former owner Brindabella Christian Education Limited entered voluntary administration on March 5, 2025 after the Australian Taxation Of-

fice moved to wind up the school's proprietors in February 2025.

The school has been bought by a new company Christian Community Ministries and has continued to operate.

Senator Pocock had more specific questions about Brindabella Christian Education Limited for the ASIC representatives.

Mr Longo said these would be taken on notice, particularly when it comes to the letters sent back to whistleblowers in 2021.

"We will take your ques-

tion with great respect and look at it seriously," he said.

Senator Pocock said it appeared ASIC had fobbed off the concerned community.

"It's not my intent to fob them off, senator," Mr Longo said.

"It is my intent to explain the system and the letters are not evidence.

"I absolutely accept people lose money ... but we are not in a position to take on every cause of every person, including Christian colleges.

"I'm sorry to be so frank, but it is a realistic statement of fact."