

Comment from Jon Attwell, Principal, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School:

It was really disappointing to wake up on Wednesday morning and see a story about our school receive national coverage that was based on rumour and speculation.

The implications of this have been huge, for not only the child at the centre of this, but for the entire school community which was unnecessarily alarmed by the reporting of an incident that police had confirmed posed no threat.

Because of the unnecessary fear created, some parents pulled their children out of school the following day. There was also undue stress and fear among students and staff. We're currently advertising positions for teachers and I'm concerned potential staff may no longer want to apply. I have the same concerns for prospective parents who may now look at other education options in the area for their children.

But what is most upsetting is that a 12-year-old child, who is already facing a number of challenges in his life, was unfairly thrust into the media spotlight and accused of threatening the school community, which he did not do. We'll keep supporting him as best we can.

I acknowledge there have been some issues at our school involving violent incidents among students but we are addressing those issues in a number of ways and are working with our community. Parents are aware of this and can be reassured that we want the best for their children.

We have an amazing school community and, despite this recent media coverage, I was encouraged that many parents and students showed their support in the days that followed. Their continued support is what matters most and I appreciate it.