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## Re: S159-2007 Government Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools

Anakie Primary is a small rural school set at the foothills of the Brisbane Ranges and 25km from Geelong.

### Uniform Description

Navy blue long and short sleeved polo shirts with a red stripe on collar

Navy blue shorts – unisex style

Navy blue and white checked summer dresses

Navy blue track pants

Navy blue windcheater

Navy blue bomber style jacket

Navy blue wide brimmed hats

Sports Uniform – navy blue shorts and polo shirts (as above)

### Benefits And Costs Of Mandatory School Uniforms

- Sense of pride in, belonging to, ownership and identity of the school
- Students easily identified on excursions etc
- Fits sunsmart policy
- Students appropriately dress for physical activity
- Easier for parents when students getting ready for school knowing what they are going to wear
- Removes competition between students as to what is being worn and thereby removing a point of distraction from learning
- Having a uniform is cost effective (including option of second hand uniform)
- Wearing uniform every day means not needing to have different clothes every day
- Reduces the need for washing a new outfit each day and therefore saves both money and water
- Saves money for parents in not having to keep up with latest fashions

### The Views Of School Communities About Dress Codes And School Uniforms

- School community prefers uniforms
- It is the norm so not an issue

### The Most Cost Efficient And Practical Uniform Procurement Arrangements

- Use of 'Primary School Wear' as provider
- School uniform shop
- Orders placed through school office
- Second hand uniform shop at the school

- Whilst uniform with school logo is available, clothing without school logo is equally as acceptable

#### Matters Which Need To Be Considered To Ensure Dress Codes And Uniform Policies Are Consistent With Anti-Discrimination Legislation And Health Promotion Policies

- Fits sunsmart policy
- All items (except) summer dress are worn by both genders
- Promotes healthy, positive self image and the public face the school wishes to be known for

#### Appropriate Enforcement And Sanctions

- Sanctions not currently written into policy
- Expectation that all students in uniform when representing school
- No hat – students play in shaded areas, hats apply in term 1 and 4

#### Appropriate Exemption Criteria And Processes

- 'Out of Uniform' blank note provided to families for times when uniform isn't worn
- Common sense prevails; discernment on behalf of staff applies and parents

#### National And International Trends

- Observations of school uniforms extremes eg kilts being worn very long or short
- Hats being introduced into overseas schools

Prepared by a working party on behalf of Anakie Primary School Council  
29<sup>th</sup> May, 2007