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
29th May, 2007