



Deb & Cam Ballment
Mont Albert VIC
23/05/2007 04:01 PM

To etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

cc

bcc

Subject Government enquiry into School Dress Codes

Dear Ms Ellingford

My name is Debbie Ballment and I am the school uniform shop co-ordinator at Mont Albert Primary School. This is a voluntary position and I really have no qualification or expertise in this matter, except for the fact that I am a school parent.

In response to the inquiry concerning Dress Codes and School uniforms in Victorian schools, I am able to comment and give feedback based on my own personal point of view, and experience of running the school uniform shop.

Our school does not have a mandatory school uniform, however the majority of our students do purchase our school uniform. I consider the prices to be fair and reasonable which is reflected on the high number of students that choose to wear our uniform.

As a parent, choosing a school for our children to attend both presently and in the future, our preference would be a school with a mandatory school uniform. The reasons for this is that I think it looks smart and hopefully my children will wear it with pride when representing their school outside of school premises (e.g. School excursions). The main reason would be the benefits of every child dressed in the same way to eliminate any competitiveness or peer pressure to dress in a certain way. A once only fee of a school uniform would certainly out way the cost of ongoing expenses for casual school attire, as fashions change.

I do hope that this feedback is of some benefit to your enquiry.

Regards

Debbie Ballment

Mont Albert Primary School Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator.