



"Lyndale Secondary
College"
<lyndale.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au>

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To <etc@parliament.vic.gov.au>

cc

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Subject Government Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms
in Victorian Schools response

Ms Karen Ellingford,
Executive Officer,
Education and Training Committee,
Parliament House,
Spring Street,
East Melbourne 3002

In response to the request for feedback, Lyndale Secondary College Council would like to submit the following points:

1. School uniform inquiry.

Discussion: The Government has announced an inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools and has invited submissions from school councils. The Committee suggested the following comments be forwarded by Council to the inquiry:

- The correct wearing of uniform adds to the students' sense of belonging to the college community and encourages the students to develop a sense of pride in the school.
- Wearing school uniform assists with providing a safe environment for students both within the school as well as outside when on excursions. The reason for this is that it makes it easier to identify genuine students, as well those who are not part of the community, and thus to protect the students from undesirable influences.
- Having a defined uniform makes it easier to ensure that clothing is appropriate to the environment e.g. footwear in Technology classes.
- When all students wear the college uniform it promotes the development of a sense of egalitarianism, so that all students can feel equal within the college.
- Having a school uniform removes the problem for some students of not being able to afford expensive items of clothing.
- The absence of a school uniform may lead to bullying over clothing.
- The provision of a college uniform makes it cheaper for parents to provide appropriate and durable clothing for their children to wear to school.
- Having a school uniform reduces the risk of theft of expensive items of clothing.
- Having a school uniform removes the opportunity for students to wear inappropriate clothing at school.

Lloyd McDermott
Assistant Principal
on behalf of Lyndale Secondary College Council

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