

4 June 2007

Karen Ellingford
Executive Officer
Education & Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Karen

Having recently learned of the enquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools, I believe the enquiry should be widened to include student backpacks. Most students use a backpack to transport their books to and from school. Thousands of students are affected by back pain, muscle fatigue and poor posture.

These problems occur because students will not fit or carry their heavily loaded backpacks correctly, and the use of unsuitable fashion day packs. Schools and Colleges cannot enforce the wearing of backpacks correctly leaving students at risk of potential permanent spinal damage.

New Generation has just completed development of the world's first student backpack that cannot be fitted or carried incorrectly ensuring future generations of students equipped with our G-Force College Backpack can safely transport their books to and from school without being at risk of posture or spinal damage.

Our high schools and colleges should implement a policy permitting the use of wear right student safe backpacks, this would be a decisive decision in eliminating back and posture problems affecting large numbers of our student population.

I look forward to your comments with interest.

Yours sincerely

Cecil Scott
Project Manager