

Executive

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Mr Geoff Howard
Chair, Education And Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr Howard

**RE: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO DRESS CODES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS
IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your Parliamentary Inquiry into dress codes and school uniforms in Victorian schools.

The Minister for Education announced a proposal for compulsory school uniforms for transition to Year 9 students in Northern Territory Government schools on 25 July 2006. Following feedback from schools and school councils, the Minister for Education confirmed that the School Uniforms Policy will take effect across the Northern Territory as of the beginning of the 2008 school year. This policy is intended to minimise clothing cost burdens for parents, promote a positive school image and eliminate the negative social pressure on students of keeping up with fashion and brand names.

I have attached a copy of our Government's DRAFT Compulsory School Uniform Policy for your information and trust this information will assist you in your inquiry and in any future formulation of policy you may be developing.

Yours sincerely



MARGARET BANKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

22 April 2007

DRAFT

POLICY

Compulsory School Uniforms T-9

Responsibility of: Schools Policy and Operations
Effective Date: March 2007
Next Review Date: March 2009
Actual Date Reviewed

DEET File: <TRIM file number>
Doc<TRIM doc number>

VERSION NUMBER:

1. POLICY

All students in Government schools from Transition to Year Nine are required to wear an authorised school uniform whilst on school premises and when attending official school activities during and after school hours. Under the policy each Government school in conjunction with parents and their respective school councils will develop a School Uniform Implementation Plan containing the following elements.

- A requirement that students wear an authorised school uniform
- Measures to address exceptional circumstances (short or long term) where a student is unable to comply with the policy such as, recent arrival at the school, potential financial burden for the family, disability, physical injury, cultural and/or religious reasons or other exceptional circumstances facing the student or family
- Measures to address health and safety considerations including sun protection factors, appropriate footwear and hats.

Once ratified the School Uniform Implementation Plan will become school policy and will be inserted in the school handbook and parent information packs.

2. BUSINESS NEED

The Minister for Education announced a proposal for compulsory school uniforms for transition to Year 9 students in Government schools on 25 July 2006. Following feedback from schools and school councils the Minister for Education confirmed that the School Uniforms Policy will take effect across the Northern Territory as of the beginning of the 2008 school year. This policy is intended to minimise clothing cost burdens for parents, promote a positive school image and eliminate the negative social pressure on students of keeping up with fashion and brand names.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

Principals and School councils are responsible for developing the School Uniform Implementation Plan for their respective schools.

General Managers and Regional Directors will be responsible for ratifying School Uniform Implementation plans.

General Managers and Regional Directors will be responsible for providing advice to schools and school councils on the development of School Uniform Implementation Plans should this be required.

4. RELATED POLICIES

Current school based sun protection policies.

5. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Minister for Education's Statement in the Legislative Assembly of 28 November 2007

Memo to Principals dated 4 December 2006 (DOC2006/010040)

6. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Displayed on DEET website and available to the public.

7. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

8. GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

Schools are required to have a School Uniform Implementation Plan developed and ratified by the end of Semester One 2007.

The Implementation Plan must have clear implementation guidelines that include

- a description of what constitutes the school uniform for the school
- measures in place to encourage student compliance with the uniform policy
- a communications plan with details on providing information to and incorporating feedback from the school community
- mechanisms to review the school uniform over time
- measures in place to deal with students not wearing uniform.

The \$50 back to school payment will be able to be used to offset the cost of school uniform items.

Whilst not compulsory for senior students, school councils may wish to make a determination on the policy as it applies to senior students in their school.

Measures to ensure compliance with this policy will not extend to a student being excluded from school.