

## Response from Ranfurly PS School Council to Government Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools.

Ranfurly PS has an enrolment of approx 480 students and is situated in Mildura in north western Victoria.

Our School Council believes strongly that uniform should be compulsory for Primary School students in Victoria.

Ranfurly PS introduced compulsory uniform for our students at the beginning of 2007 after community consultation during 2006.

### 1. We believe the benefits of compulsory uniform are:

- Encourages pride and belonging to the school

- Promotes equity amongst students – reduces competition and fashion statements

- Cost effectiveness – no need for multiple sets of clothes

- Easily managed – no arguments in the morning regarding choice of clothes

### 2. Community Views:

A survey of our school community in 2006 strongly supported the introduction of compulsory school uniform for all students at our school.

Our School Council believes that it is important that School Councils retain the right to set uniform policies for their school.

### 3. Procurement:

Our Uniform shop sources uniforms direct from Australian manufacturers to keep costs to parents to a minimum. Our uniform sales are conducted by volunteer parents and the uniform shop is not run as a profit-making venture. Our school logo has been trademarked. We believe that it is important to buy Australian made goods.

Our shorts and track pants are navy blue, which allows parents to purchase at retail stores if required.

Broad-brimmed hats are compulsory for all students in line with sun-smart guidelines.

### 4. Legislation and Policies:

We believe that it is important that all students in State Government schools should be in approved uniform irrespective of religious beliefs or country of birth. School uniforms and dress codes should be flexible enough to cater for current legislation.

### 5. Enforcement and Sanctions:

Our school enforces dress codes by gentle reminders to students who are out of uniform on a day-to-day basis and follows up with letters to parents if the issue continues.

We believe that it is not appropriate in a Primary School to exclude students from class for non-compliance with uniform policies.

### 6. Exemption:

We do not believe that any on-going exemptions are appropriate. Short term exemptions (1 -2 days) due to emergency circumstances are permitted at our school via a note from a parent.

### 7. Trends:

No comment

Gary Green

Principal

On behalf of Ranfurly PS School Council