



Geoff Howard/ALP/PARL
10/06/2007 01:15 PM

To Karen Ellingford/ParlOfficer/PARL@PARL
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: UNIFORM INQUIRY

Geoff Howard
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— Forwarded by Geoff Howard/ALP/PARL on 10/06/2007 01:15 PM —



"Paul"

08/06/2007 05:22 PM

To <geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au>
cc
Subject UNIFORM INQUIRY

7th June, 2007.

Karen Rolands
Kinglake West VIC

03 57865405

Mr Geoff Howard MP
Chair
Education and Training Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002

Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniform in Victorian Schools

I am writing to say that I believe that most parents think that a uniform is not unreasonable, and in a lot of ways easier than the nightmare of keeping up with the trends of fashion. There should however be a limit to what schools are allowed to impose on parents. I have been

extremely disappointed since enrolling my daughter at Whittlesea Secondary College for 2007. Some points I hope you will consider are listed below.

- Public school systems should be affordable to all parents. Assistance should only be necessary for extreme financial difficulty eg (States Relief Fund).

- Uniforms should be reasonably priced and parents should be able to purchase items from different suppliers, so as to keep prices down through competition.

- Schools who supply school uniforms should be restricted as to how much profit they are able to make.

- Schools should be made to follow the Education Department Policy (Student dress code). This requires extensive community consultation so as to reflect the schools own community. Schools should be made to make uniform decisions on the majority of opinions not as to what the school council members may want.

- Expensive unnecessary items such as Blazers should always be kept as optional items. This means that parents and students have the right to choose, this means that parents who are struggling with their financial situation are not forced to make things worse unnecessarily.

- Students should never be kept from class if they have a reasonable excuse for being out of uniform in a note from a parent. It is totally unreasonable for a school to refuse entry to class for not having the correct shoes, and totally inappropriate for a school to offer second hand shoes due to health issues.

- The law requires that all children have an education. What students wear does not effect their education. Fighting with students unnecessarily can effect their education. Parents and Teachers need to pick their battles, fighting with students over unnecessary expensive items is not a battle we need to take on. There are much more important issues.