

FACT SHEET 19: SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Changing School Uniforms

Whether the uniform is being adopted in the first instance or being altered, the Principal should ensure that he/she seeks the views of parents on the proposed uniform through the established P&C Association at the school.

According to the Department's School Uniform Policy:

- "Each school's uniform policy must be the result of formal consultation with students, teachers and parents or carers, including the P&C Association, local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and School Council, where relevant."
- "The school's uniform policy and school uniform requirements should be reviewed at least every five years and amended where necessary. Groups within the school community may also seek a review when circumstances change significantly or issues arise."

Keeping in mind, the P&C Association cannot *compel* the school principal to change the school uniform, members who feel strongly about the need for change should, in the first instance, raise the matter at a general meeting of the P&C Association and propose that the association investigates current attitudes about the options for altering that uniform.

If this proposal is supported by a majority vote at the P&C Association meeting, the association can then decide how best to canvas parent views on the subject. This could take the form of a written survey of all parents, or the holding of special meetings, with much prior notice, so that various points of view can be expressed and views tested.

If a P&C Association recommends a change in school uniform, it should be able to demonstrate *significant* support for the proposed change. It would be most unwise to suggest that the uniform be altered if the proposed changes are supported by little more than a simple majority of parents.

If the Principal is reluctant to allow discussion or says categorically that the uniform will not change, regardless of parent feeling, the association should explore the possibilities of change with the Regional Director.

Notification of change

All parents or carers and, as far as is practicable, all retailers concerned must be notified early in the school year preceding the change. Some schools may need to allow up to three years for change, to enable school uniform shops and others with significant stocks of the uniform to be replaced to prepare for the change.