

Media Release
20 May 2014

Plan Melbourne - where is the plan for public schools?

Plan Melbourne is released today and while Our Children Our Schools (OCOS) applauds the inclusion of education provision in the Plan Melbourne Document, parents across Melbourne are worried about the lack of clear commitment to the provision of public schools in this document.

A whole of government approach to education delivery is something many of our 13 member groups have been calling for and something Planning Minister Matthew Guy reinforced in his recent statement about projected population growth in an area when he said "it is common sense that you fund the necessary infrastructure".

"Given that we believe every child should have access to quality public primary and secondary education in their local community, the 20 minute neighbourhood policy is laudable.

"However minus the specific mention of school provision being public schools, it is another sign that we are witnessing privatisation by stealth of the education system and the Government walking away from its responsibilities," said OCOS spokesperson Clarke Martin.

Our urban school campaign groups have been frustrated that up until now there have been guidelines for schools, this important social infrastructure, in designated growth areas but not all urban areas.

Active transport (walking and riding to school) is an important part of the equation and it is good to see this recognised in the document.

OCOS urges the Metro Planning Authority to closely examine population growth trends in all urban areas to properly prepare for adequate public school provision at primary and secondary level.

http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/208935/Chapter-4-Plan-Melbourne-May-2014.pdf

For more information please visit www.ourchildrenourschools.com.au.

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About Our Children, Our Schools

Our Children, Our Schools believes every Victorian child should have access to high-quality Foundation-to-Year 12 public education in their local community.

This means that these schools must be proactively planned for and built, well-maintained, staffed and funded appropriately.

OCOS members are community groups campaigning for the same outcomes as OCOS:

- Beaumaris School Community Group (BSCG)

- A new school for Bannockburn District
- High School for Coburg (HSC)
- Doreen and Mernda Secondary School Alliance
- Friends of Kyneton Education (FoKE)
- Oakleigh Ward Local Secondary School (OWLSS)
- Richmond High School Choices
- Secondary Education for Seddon, Kingsville and Yarraville (SKY High)
- TwoSchoolsNow (Port Phillip and Southbank)
- High School for Preston
- Restore Strathmore Heights' School Zones
- Reopen Our Schools Banyule
- Friends of Elwood College

For interviews with Our Children, Our Schools spokesperson and Beaumaris School Community Group member Clarke Martin, please contact:

Darren Saffin

0411 089 209

darren@djscommunications.com.au

OR

media@ourchildrenourschools.com.au