

Media Release
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New Coburg open entry high school hasn't impacted on inner city school enrolment demands

The good news for the new open entry high school in Coburg is that there are 170 Year 7 students enrolled for 2015, the first year of operation.

The not so good news for inner city public schools is that there still aren't enough local places at local schools to meet demand.

"The new Coburg Junior campus has not made a dent in demand for places at Northcote High. We had 470 applications for Year 7 and had to turn away 170. We accepted 300 - an increase of 50 (two classrooms) above our normal intake of 250", said Northcote High School Principal, Kate Morris.

"We are not in a position to take a larger cohort and believe with our current facilities we are at capacity. Therefore the decision to open Coburg High School to Year 7s in 2015 was both timely and informed. Families need to be able to access an excellent high school in their neighbourhood. "

Cate Hall from parent campaign group High School for Coburg says, "It is important to note that the large enrolment numbers for Year 7 next year are before the baby boom numbers start coming through. Our research shows the number of local students seeking secondary school enrolments will rapidly escalate from 2015."

(More Local Primary School Children – Fewer Secondary School Options, November 2011
http://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/74204906?access_key=key-p7rs6ffe1jsorafuro4)

All political parties need to provide proper planning and provision for public education across the board and stop waiting until the situation is dire before giving parents the security they need around education in their local community.

The selling off of old school sites needs to stop. Pork barrelling needs to stop.

Long term provision and planning with the best interests of students and communities needs to start. Funding needs to be spent in areas of the greatest need.

Governments and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) need to listen to parents who are struggling to get their kids into their local schools and who know what is happening on the ground right now.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure, Victoria in Future 2014 report estimates that by 2031 the school-age population will have increased to 1.4 million – 500,000 more students than are sitting in classrooms today.

The recent Senate Inquiry into school funding report stated "As a function of their birthright each Australian citizen is equitably entitled to an excellent education, no matter where they live or which school they attend." (pg. 185).



http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/School_Funding/School_Funding/Report/index

Governments of all persuasions need to value education and schools as an asset and to be protected, not as an expense to be cut from budgets.

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
- Friends of Elwood College
- PGR (Public Education Group)
- Nunawading Primary School Site Preservation Group

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