

PURCHASING UNIFORMS

**and
ETHICAL**

CONSIDERATION

POSITION PAPER



Position Paper – P&F Federation

Purchasing Uniforms - Ethical Consideration

Background

School uniforms are an essential part of outfitting our children for school. For many schools the range of items in the uniform has increased in recent years to include such items as additional sports and supporters gear. At times this can be expensive so parents and schools are rightly interested in keeping down the costs of uniforms to families.

On the other hand we also need to ensure that we buy our uniforms from companies which provide fair pay and conditions to their employees and outworkers by complying with the appropriate employment and safety laws.

Unfortunately, some elements of the textile, clothing and footwear industry have been shown to employ workers in substandard conditions which do not comply with Australian laws requiring appropriate safety, pay and conditions for employees and outworkers.

The Queensland Government introduced a Code of Practice on employment and outwork obligations (textile clothing and footwear suppliers) which includes contacts for assistance.

Position

The P&F Federation believes that Catholic schools should source their uniforms from companies which treat their employees and contractors fairly. For Queensland companies, this means those companies which comply with *the Queensland Government Code of Practice on Employment and Outwork Obligations – Textile, Clothing and Footwear Suppliers*.

The Federation supports and encourages parents and schools to source affordable uniforms.

We recognise that these two principles may at times conflict and communities will need to balance these differing objectives. We believe this is consistent with our Catholic ethos and ethics.

Wide consultation throughout the school community should occur in making decisions about uniforms.

Approved by State Committee

Date : 26 November 2011

Signed by Chair :

