

Dear Families,

RE: DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION FINAL REPORT VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

I am pleased to advise the Victorian Government has published its [response](#) to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (the Royal Commission). This follows a commitment made by the Australian Government and state and territory governments to respond to the Royal Commission in mid-2024. To read the Australian Government, state and territory responses to joint recommendations, refer to [joint response](#).

In summary, all but one of the education recommendations were accepted in full, in principle or in part by the Victorian Government. **However, the Victorian Government has decided to not accept recommendation 7.14, to phase out and close specialist schools.**

The alternative recommendation provided by the Royal Commission, 7.15, to better integrate specialist schools with mainstream schools, has been accepted in principle.

The decision not to accept recommendation 7.14 is consistent with the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment to providing parents and carers with the choice of enrolling their child in a school that is right for them and recognises that inclusion does not mean a 'one size fits all' approach to education.

As you may have read in the newsletter, we are currently in the middle of our routine school review. I am extremely proud that the review panel's initial findings have indicated that the education programs we are offering our students are "extraordinary" as a "centre of excellence" for inclusive education.

I am a member of the *Keilor-St Albans Network Executive* for our local mainstream primary and secondary schools across the cities of Brimbank and Melton and I work closely with the Principals and their leadership teams. Our Inclusion Outreach Coach, Jessica Richards, is also working with our local mainstream partner schools to support their inclusive practices of students with disabilities and additional needs.

I am committed to establish future partnerships and initiatives which will enable educational, cultural, sporting, recreational and celebratory activities with other students in mainstream schools. We are continuing to establish our Hands on Learning program "Farm" at Keilor Downs College. I will endeavour to strengthen our connections and opportunities for our students and their peers in mainstream schools.

I would like to acknowledge the uncertainty following the release of the Disability Royal Commission Final Report and the impact it may have had on you and your family. I am sure this is a welcomed announcement for all members of our community. We will continue to work closely in partnership with the Department of Education to support the best interests of our children and young people.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Jackson".

Anthony Jackson
Principal