

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Anti Discrimination Law](#)
Subject: Sexual discrimination at Catholic Schools
Date: Wednesday, 22 February 2023 2:59:04 PM

To whom it may concern,

Our two daughters are at a Catholic High School in North Queensland. A certain matter that has been of concern to my wife and I as parents is the uniform that the girls at the school are made to wear.

The uniform in question is the long skirt that most Catholic Schools have. The skirt is somewhat restrictive to the girls and prevents them from engaging in certain physical activities that the boys at the school are able to do. For a start, the girls cannot ride their bicycles to and from school whilst wearing the uniform skirt. Boys wear shorts which pose no problem. Many sporting activities at school cannot be engaged in by girls because the skirts prevent it.

Girls who take Manual Arts training in the INTAD workshops at the school are placed at considerable risk whilst using machinery. They are made to wear their skirts in the workshops and are thus wearing what can only be described as loose clothing. The Safe Operating Procedures of many machines in the workshop prohibit the wearing of loose clothing whilst operating those machines. For boys that does not pose a problem. When my oldest daughter first started at the school three years ago I asked the then principal if the girls can be allowed to wear their sports uniforms (shorts with polo shirts) on the days they will be working in the Manual Arts workshops. The Principal said "No" so I was forced to prohibit my daughters from undertaking INTAD training as I was not prepared to sign the schools waiver form due to my concern for their safety. This places them at a considerable disadvantage over their male classmates and that principal was placing the schools 'image' ahead of child's safety. I am sure it does not comply with Queensland School's workplace health and safety standards.

The uniform worn by the girls at all the State Schools in our area are either shorts or long pants and shirts.

Our girls are reluctant to catch the school bus to or from school. The bus takes children from all schools and there have been occasions when boys have tried to look up their skirts. That of course does not pose a problem with the girls who go to the State Schools.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Bauer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]