

## **RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL CHOICES**

### **To all interested parents:**

As many of you will know, on 15 May 2007 a Public Meeting was held with Richmond's State Member of Parliament, Richard Wynne. At that meeting we discussed the issues facing Richmond families when choosing a secondary school.

### **What has been achieved so far?**

With the support of Richard Wynne, new choices have been opened-up. As recently announced through the Department of Education, families for whom Collingwood College is their nearest neighbourhood school can now choose to send their child to Fitzroy High School, Collingwood College or Princes Hill Secondary College or, in the case of a girl, Melbourne Girls College. It should be noted that these arrangements do not apply to families for whom Hawthorn Secondary College is the family's nearest neighbourhood school. In summary, for most Richmond families, this adds Fitzroy High School and Princes Hill Secondary College to the existing neighbourhood choice of Collingwood College. Parents should also note that at this stage Hawthorn Secondary College does not have an enrolment ceiling and so any child should be able to enter that school at Year 7.

(For a full understanding of the grounds of entry to government secondary schools, parents should refer to the Department's guidelines and individual schools' published information.)

### **Continuing action**

The above achievement is significant but there is still more to be done to address continuing concerns relating to entry to the eastern high schools traditionally open to Richmond families and easily accessible by public transport, namely Camberwell High School and Kew High School. There is also the problem of the gender distortion in inner-city and inner-eastern schools caused by the 2 girls-only schools of Melbourne Girls College and Canterbury Girls Secondary College, which skew public education resources and infrastructure towards girls. Overall, particularly given the growing numbers of children in primary school in the inner-city and inner-eastern suburbs, medium and longer term strategies are going to be required to ensure that Richmond families, especially boys, are not disadvantaged.

### **Staying involved**

To try to continue the momentum on this issue, a group has been formed with representatives from each of the Richmond and neighbouring government primary schools: Richmond P.S; Yarra P.S; Richmond West P.S; Abbotsford P.S and Hawthorn West P.S.

If you are interested, please visit our website at [www.richmondhighschoolchoices.org](http://www.richmondhighschoolchoices.org)

The web site has some basic information and you can register your email address to stay in touch and be notified of the next steps.