

## **Student Growth Projections Means SKY High is an Urgent Necessity**

Today's revelation that Melbourne's overcrowded state schools must absorb 50,000 new pupils by 2021, supports SKY High's campaign for more high school capacity in the Seddon, Kingsville and Yarraville area.

SKY High President, Melissa Horne said the report in today's Age newspaper of the growing numbers of school students, coupled with the lowest level of investment in public school infrastructure in a decade was very disturbing for the SKY community.

"SKY High's recent rally of local parents and kids could not have sent a clearer message to the State Government that local school populations are expanding rapidly and we need more capacity in the public high school network now to meet this growth," Ms Horne said.

"The report shows that in the Maribyrnong area alone 1,484 more pupils had to be squeezed into the public school network last year. Yet spending on infrastructure is the lowest in almost a decade.

"This growth is going to continue so we urgently need the State government to fix the lack of space in our local high school network now.

"We've had a great first step by the State Opposition in committing to look carefully at this issue, but the State Government needs to match it and start preparing for this boom now.

"It is simply not acceptable to squeeze more and more demountable classrooms onto areas designated for play and sport.

"We have been calling for more public high school capacity for 10 years to make sure that we are in a position to accommodate this future growth. It is time the State Government started acting, before we reach a crisis in the high school years."

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