LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ST PAULS COLLEGE, BALWYN

As my elected State Member of Parliament, I am urging you to personally intervene to ensure the continuity of Victorian Government funding for St. Paul’s College specialist school.

St Paul’s College is a purpose-built campus for children with complex needs and offers the children who need it the Allied Health and Personal Care Services necessary for them to be able to attend school.

St. Paul’s provides children access to education that is not only relevant to their individual capabilities, but which also provides hope for them, their families and carers.

Your Government has decided to discontinue its historic funding of the school, which threatens the continuity of services being provided. If this situation is not rectified, current and potential future students will be at risk of being condemned to a life without access to an educational setting appropriate for them.

I understand the situation has occurred because of confusion over responsibility for funding between the State and Commonwealth Governments following the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

I am informed that the State believes funding responsibility transferred to the NDIS upon its establishment, while the NDIS claims such responsibility remains with the State. This argument has been going on for almost two years.

In a compassionate society, it is unacceptable that bureaucracies can indulge in a clinical argument between themselves about funding criteria while seemingly being ignorant of the impact their intransigence is having on the community they exist to serve.

Every child has a right to an education, and I implore you as the local member to stand up for these children, their families and carers and help resolve the matter in the interests of fairness and equity.

Your sincerely