Date

Dear [head of the education department/contact you may already have in the education department]

**Re: Girls uniform choices in [name of school]**

I am writing to you about school uniform options for girls at public schools in the ACT. I am concerned that in some public schools girls’ uniform options are disadvantageous and discriminatory, and negatively impact on girls’ learning and wellbeing. I wish to make a formal complaint about the uniform policy at [name of school].

Many schools in Australia allow students to wear a range of uniform options, choosing between dresses, skirts, shorts and pants. However, a surprising number do not allow girls the choice of shorts or pants, and require female students to wear a dress or skirt to school.

My daughter is currently [??] years old. [Discuss in detail here what uniform options are currently being offered to girls at your child’s school. Outline the range of ways you have worked with the school to try and get change in the uniform policy].

This issue is important to me because I want my daughter to actively participate in physical activities at school and on the way to/from school, I want her to be warm and comfortable in winter, and I want her to engage in every learning opportunity at the school without having to worry about sitting modestly.

The ACT Education Directorate Dress Standard and Uniforms in Canberra Public Schools policy, and the guidelines which accompany this policy, state that:

* *uniforms should meet requirements of work health and safety,* ***anti-discrimination and human rights legislation****;*
* *school based uniform policies should have* ***standards which apply to all students equally****,* ***regardless of gender identity****, for example, wearing of make up, jewellery, length of uniform;*
* *school based uniform policies should* ***promote freedom of choice for all students by categorising options by clothing type rather than by gender****, for example, shorts, trousers, skirts, rather than boy’s uniform/ girl’s uniform.*
* *of the items which a school designates as a school uniform,* ***limiting a student’s choice of school uniform items to dress in due to gender may infringe the ACT Discrimination Act (1991)****.*
* *uniforms should provide all students with equal access to the full range of school activities.*

The policy also states that schools should provide opportunities for students to suggest uniform items that would be appealing to the student cohort from the perspective of style, easy maintenance and *comfort*. Thus by not upholding these guidelines, my daughter’s school is in contravention of the Education Directorate’s policy.

Due to the discrimination my daughter is experiencing at school, I request that you take action to ensure that this school cannot continue discriminating on the basis of sex / gender.

I believe that with your Department’s prompt action, this issue could be resolved within my daughter’s school promptly.

Please inform me of the action that will be taken by your Department to ensure my daughter’s school is required to discontinue discriminating against their female students based on sex / gender.

Yours sincerely,

**Name**

**Position** - let them know your influence here. Are you a coach? On a P&C?

An academic? A public health official? A lawyer?

Do you write or speak in the media? Are you a blogger?

**Contact details (email, address, phone number)**.