



TEL 09 377 8774 FAX 09 377 0433
EMAIL TARGET@CLEAR.NET.NZ

ATTENTION – THE PRINCIPAL, MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

BY COURIER:

Mt Roskill Grammar
Frost Rd
Mt Roskill
Auckland

BY FAX: 09 6210055

26.02.10

Dear Mr Watson,

This is to inform you that the TV3 show 'Target' is doing a story brought to our attention by two year 12 Mt Roskill Grammar School students, regarding the cost of the school's new uniform and how it has been phased in.

We have interviewed the two students who told us:

- Toward the end of 2008, the school announced students would be introducing a new uniform. In 2009, the year 9s would wear it and in 2010, the year 9 and 10s would wear it.
- In 2009, it was announced that the year 12s would wear the senior uniform in 2010. After a student petition, it was announced that students who applied for financial dispensation would not have to wear the new uniform. Around 30 students applied and received this dispensation.
- The new uniform is around \$400, this is around \$100 more expensive than the old one. Prices are subject to change at any time. This figure is based on the compulsory items and the fact that students normally need more than one item. Eg 2-3 shirts. The school is the exclusive retailer.
- The two students believe the cost of the uniform is too expensive for a decile 4 school. They say, when choosing prices, schools should consider its decile.
- They also believe it is unfair to impose this on the year 12s as their old uniform was capable of lasting until they finished school.

We have also interviewed a family budget advisor who, speaking generally about uniforms in schools, says;

- Uniforms often hit families hard because they must be bought at the beginning of the year. Unlike fees, children can't start school without them, and they cannot be paid off over time.



- While separate item prices may sound reasonable, when taking into consideration that people need a number of shirts for example, they add up. She wonders if board member go to the trouble of adding the cost up.

Target and the family budget adviser believes asking students to apply for financial dispensation means these students may unnecessarily stand out.

We have interviewed Amy Smith from Uniforms Plus, who says the following:

- Uniforms Plus believes the school is in breach of the Commerce Act as the school has a monopoly on its sale. The result of this is higher prices for parents. We understand that the Commerce Commission accessed a complaint from Uniform Plus in March 09 and chose not to investigate further.
- Uniform plus says other manufacturers were not consulted and there was no tender process, contrary to what is suggested in the Commerce Commission's guidelines.
- Uniform Plus have copied the uniform and will be selling it in around 6 weeks.

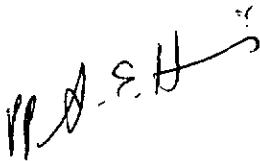
Target would like to know:

- As per the Commerce Commission guidelines, can you demonstrate how transparent Mt Roskill Grammar has been about its uniform financial arrangements?
- What is the school's view on Uniform Plus' decision to copy and sell the uniform?
- Will students be penalized for wearing the Uniform Plus uniform?

We understand that many schools have complaints about the high cost of uniforms and this is far from unique to your school. Therefore, we will also be addressing the uniform issues more generally.

It is vital that we get your view on the comments made, as soon as possible. We endeavour to be fair but we do need your help. Please respond to our questions in writing by **midday Wednesday 3rd March 2010**, either by email to simone@top-shelf.co.nz or by fax to 09 377 0433 'Attention Simone'. Please let us know if this deadline is going to be too difficult.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Burke
Executive Producer, 'Target'
Top-Shelf Productions, PO Box 8257 Symonds Street, Auckland