

# David Koch

## Member for Western Victoria Opposition Whip (Council)

46 Brown Street, Hamilton 3300  
Tel: 5572 3377 · Fax: 5572 4945

Letter to the Editor

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### Horsham Special School

The Horsham Special School is highly regarded throughout the Wimmera and is well supported by parents, volunteers and dedicated staff in catering for the education of children with special needs across the region.

Horsham City Councillors, and the wider community, along with staff, parents and carers, have long expressed concern about the substandard condition of school buildings, the lack of appropriate staff accommodation, playground space, inadequate car and bus parking, and the challenges faced by operating on a dual site.

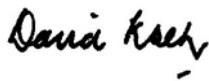
Having visited the school with my colleague John Vogels, it is clear that buildings particularly at the junior campus are in an appalling condition and it is amazing that the Education Department thinks these facilities are adequate.

I am sure the Minister for Education, the honourable Bronwyn Pike would be astonished if she visited the school and saw what staff must contend with on a daily basis in educating these special children.

It is more than a year since I first requested the Minister to urgently address conditions at Horsham Special School and although the Minister reinforced the Brumby Government's commitment to relocate the school to a new site combining both the senior and junior campuses, the Horsham community is still waiting.

I strongly support President Max Cuddihy, the School Council and the School community, who have worked hard to improve the current situation for students and staff. I have again written to the Education Minister reminding her of the Government's commitment to improve the appalling conditions, particularly at the Junior Campus, and have requested she take the opportunity to meet with school representatives during the upcoming country cabinet visit to Horsham on 20 and 21 October 2008 and reassure the school community about the School's future.

Yours sincerely



David Koch MLC  
Member for Western Victoria Region  
Opposition Whip (Council)  
Deputy Chair Parliamentary Road Safety Committee