

## **Repairing old pools as vital as building new ones**

**IT IS** fantastic to see both the Minister for Education and the Opposition education spokesman agreeing that access to pools could help tackle obesity and prevent unnecessary drownings ("Pools for schools drive," 15/10). So frustrating then, that the Monash Council cannot seem to see the benefits of maintaining a pool in the Oakleigh community.

It is not only new, outer, growth suburbs that need infrastructure support. Oakleigh is a classic example.

We have a pool complex, built by the community more than 60 years ago, that has been run into the ground by the Monash Council. Our community is in grave danger of losing the pool due to the short-sightedness of the council, which can only see the cost of repair and improvement and not the value.

There are 11 local schools that support the retention of the Oakleigh pool and would use it for carnivals and lessons if it were upgraded.

They are both government and private schools and none has their own pool. Does it make sense in an age when water is so precious to build pools in each of these schools, or would it make more sense to give these schools access to improved shared resources?

With the rationalisation of schools over the past two decades, many students travel to other suburbs for school and the local pool has become a vital melting pot for them to get to know other local kids in their community.

The pool is considered a neutral zone, where rivalries are put on hold and kids that normally wouldn't get along somehow do.

Wake up Monash Council — recognise the massive social positive that our pool provides.

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