

29 November 2006

Mr Nick Savidas
Etiko Sports

**Making the link - education for sustainability
in Australian secondary schools**

Dear Nick,

We are at a pivotal time in the history of Australian formal education. Schools have been constantly championed as the best way to respond to the challenges presented by sustainable living, yet there is a lack of tangible support and resources out there to support this role.

As the expectations continue to grow, so too has the amount of activity around 'sustainable schools' most recently with the launch of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative and the accompanying 'Education for a Sustainable Future' the national environmental education statement for Australian schools.

The Sustainable Living Challenge has been actively supporting teachers in this role since 1999. Key to becoming a sustainable school is the recognition of the importance of quality learning processes. This is a major challenge for sustainability educators everywhere – how do you engage people in a learning process that is fun, inclusive, informative and action oriented?

Etiko Sports provides a tangible demonstration of a potential solution and resource for teachers. On a surface level, it makes the important link between environmental issues and human health crucial if we are going to start understanding the human drivers to our common sustainability challenges. On a deeper level, it engages with the process of learning not just the content. By kicking around the soccer ball students can start to become engaged with other interconnected issues of sustainability: trade, equity, livelihoods, consumption and poverty.

Importantly, exploring real world issues with your students and using them as the context for learning is increasingly being linked to quality education in schools. Teachers are now faced with the challenge of coming up with innovative ways of engaging their students in exploring sustainability issues. Increasingly, all teachers are realising that they must respond to the challenges of sustainability – even industrial arts and physical education teachers!

It is for these very reasons that we consider Etiko's Fair Trade sports equipment to be not only a great tool in maintaining good health and fitness, but more so as a teaching tool that makes learning for sustainability fun, interactive but most importantly tangible.

Yours sincerely,



Benjamin Roche
National Coordinator

www.sustainableliving.com.au

