

“Educating Future Generations”

We congratulate the Diamond Valley Special Developmental School (DVSDS), Greensborough, Victoria, on its extensive outreach work with regular schools in the community.

It is wonderful to see really meaningful integration, with such benefits for both sides of the intellectual spectrum.

In its latest newsletter, DVSDS says they are now fairly well settled in, and on friendly terms with a large group of year 9 students who have taken their special needs students under their wing. These year 9 students have been the instigators of imminent integration into a few of the practical subjects taught at the Greensborough Secondary College.

The special needs students each get a turn at integrating into a specialist room - food tech, music, horticulture and natural science to begin with. With a view to finding out what suits student's interests and abilities best.

The latest newsletter goes on to say members of the Education Department came out to look at the base rooms, in light of the last budget when money was allocated to satellite schools. What is the difference between a satellite and a base room? Nobody knows yet, as no one has defined what a satellite is.

It seems most likely that a base room and a satellite could be one and the same. The department was very impressed with the base rooms. DVSDS was part of a study a few years ago which said their base room model was the recommended one.

We would suggest base rooms to be venues - satellite schools of integrated activities in participating schools.

Notwithstanding the technical terminology, it is the principle which is important. The principle being first class integration and better understanding and acceptance of those with a disability by future generations.