METHOD FOR DETERMINING SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR A VICTORIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL NURSE

- **The Special Learning Needs Index** (SLN) is based on information collected annually from schools. This index includes the occupation of parents, family status, aboriginality, ethnicity, number of students receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance and the number of transitory students. School with an SLN greater than 0.8 were deemed eligible for a nurse.

- **The Burden of Disease study** undertook a detailed analysis of estimated years of life lost due to morbidity and mortality resulting in a rating for each Victorian Local Government Area. According to this data we allocated a nurse at a SLN level of 0.675 to schools in LGAs with a disability adjusted life years rating higher than the State average.

- **The Survey of Risk and Protective Factors** was conducted in 1999 by the Centre for Adolescent health, and explored young peoples personal resilience. Schools in communities designated as having high risk and low protective factors were allocated a nurse at an SLN of 0.675.

  The Adolescent Health and Well-Being study was a stratified, school based survey of a random sample of secondary schools including government, Catholic and independent schools. The sample included 150 metropolitan and 50 non-metropolitan schools providing a population of 12,816 year 7, 9 and 11 students. 8,984 students participated with a 70% response rate.

- **Rural and Isolation**
  All rural and isolated areas that had a population of less than 20,000 and an SLN of 0.675 and over were allocated a nurse. This resulted in 50% of nurses being allocated to rural schools.