

MELBOURNE

Gender balancing act

SCHOOL SEEKS PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR MALE OR FEMALE STUDENTS

Holly McKay

WESLEY College has applied for the right to pick the gender of its students.

The prestigious private co-educational school has applied to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for an exemption from the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 to allow it to "advertise for prospective students of a particular gender". Business director and chief financial officer Cameron

Moroney said there were presently 3100 students at the school, which originally opened as an all-boys' school in 1866 and opened its enrolment to girls in 1975.

Mr Moroney said 54 per cent of students at the school were boys. "It varies a bit by year level," Mr Moroney said.

"It was a very conscious choice to move into co-education and we did it because we believe a co-educational environment is what life is really about.

"We wanted a reasonable balance and by applying for this exemption we are trying to make sure we have a good balance on all fronts, including gender."

He said the exemption was merely a "legality", which many schools applied for and would allow the college to structure its waiting lists and allocate student placements.

"Most parents make a very conscious decision when deciding where to send their children to school. One of those is

whether it's a co-educational school," Mr Moroney said.

"It is a key feature of what Wesley College puts out there as part of its educational values."

The tribunal will hear the application on May 24. The college has campuses in St Kilda Rd, Elsterwick and Glen Waverley.

Should schools be able to pick students based on gender?
Email melbourne@leader.newspapers.com.au

COLLINGWOOD



Performers Charlotte Chapman and Agathe Loup with producer Michael Bulb at the theatre company's rehearsal studio in Carlton. Photo: ANGE GASDEE/INPHO

Enjoy the language of love in stage show

IT RANKS among the toughest challenges of director Paul Terrell's career — directing a production in another language.

Melbourne French Theatre company presents *Double the Risk in Love* at the Collingwood

College Theatre this week in French with English subtitles.

Terrell, of Abbotsford, acknowledged that directing the play had tested him.

"I only speak a couple of words of French," Terrell said. "But I

have a translation in front of me and I follow along so I know what the actors are saying.

"And there are things you learn as a director and language is only one part of it."

The company has been de-

livering French theatre with English subtitles for 16 years.

The production shows at Collingwood College Theatre from May 7-11. Tickets are \$32-\$12. Details: mfrn.org or 9349 2250

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