

Media Release  
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## **Convent disappointed with Lourdes go-ahead**

The Abbotsford Convent Foundation said today it was disappointed the City of Yarra had decided to push ahead with the Lourdes child care development before producing a traffic management plan that works.

The chairman of the ACF, Mr Hayden Raysmith, said the Council's decision would add significantly to the traffic and safety problem in the precinct.

"It reduces parking spaces whilst increasing the demand for parking. It will also significantly increase the number of cars coming into the area to drop off and pick up young children," Mr Raysmith said.

"Without a suitable traffic and parking plan, the precinct will become more dangerous for a growing number of children, parents, residents and other visitors."

The ACF was disappointed the Council had not taken heed of concerns raised at public meetings over the past 12 months, including as recently as two weeks ago.

"All options should be explored," Mr Raysmith said.

"Our traffic expert has advised that the loss of 50 car parking spaces under the Council's plan will mean more cars looking for parking in local streets and an increase in illegal parking," Mr Raysmith said. The impact on residential streets and congestion in Clarke and St Heliers streets was a particular concern."

"The ACF will continue to work with local organisations, the City of Yarra and residents on ways to improve traffic management and parking. But I doubt whether the ACF Board in all conscience could allow its land to be used in a Council plan which makes the area more dangerous for more children and other visitors."

*Media enquiries: Maggie Maguire, ACF CEO*