

## **PRESTON GIRLS' ON TRACK!**

On Track follows up young people in the six months after they complete year 12 to obtain data about their post school education, training and employment destinations.

The 2009 Survey data released last week demonstrates that the graduates of Preston Girls not only aspire to but are successful in moving from school to further education and training. In 2008, 100% of the students who completed the year were awarded their VCE or VCAL certificate. The On Track data reveals that of this group 85% are continuing in Further Education and Training with 67% enrolled at University. This represents an increase of almost 20% in the number of students with places at University compared with 2008 figures.

The figure for the students at University (67%) is significantly higher than that for females at all other schools in the Northern Metropolitan Region (50%) and at schools across the state (49%). The data also indicates that Preston Girls graduates are twice as likely as students from schools with a similar profile to proceed to University studies.

A further 11% deferred taking up the offer of a tertiary place in 2009. The main reasons given for deferring include wanting to take a break from study and working to qualify for Youth Allowance.

College Principal, Mrs Cheryl Judd said that the college is proud of all of its graduates. She indicated that the College has been progressively building the confidence of students in their ability and capacity to aspire to a place at university and reach for careers of choice through a commitment to a post school education pathway. She quoted the experience of two 2007 graduates who won places Melbourne University in 2008 and after successfully completing first year have both transferred to their preferred course of medicine in 2009. One is at the University of Newcastle in NSW whilst the other has moved to study at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. Both girls are excited about these moves and have settled well into their courses.

This is yet a further indication of the commitment of the college to give girls choice during their schooling and the voice to make informed decisions about their futures.