# Free Stuff for Families

* **$250 Power Saving Bonus for all Victorians**; the Andrews Labor government is offering a once-off $250 payment for all Victorian households that use the Victorian Energy Compare website to search for the cheapest electricity plan that suits their needs. For further information go to their website compare.energy.vic.gov.au
* **Extending the Solar Homes and Batteries Program into 2022/23**, An opportunity to access $1,400 solar PV rebates and 1,700 extra battery storage rebates. Interest free loans are also available. For further information go to the website <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/>
* **Heating and Airconditioning Rebates**: Save $1000 when you upgrade to an energy-efficient heating and cooling system. To see if you are eligible for the rebate please visit [www.service.vic.gov.au/services/heating-upgrades/home](http://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/heating-upgrades/home)
* **Utility Relief Grant and Non-Mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme**: This is available to Pensioner Concession card holders, Health Care card holders or DVA Gold card holders. If you do not have one of these cards but you are on a low income, you may also be able to apply. The maximum grant available per utility bill is $650, the grant provided depends on the amount owing on the bill. If you only have one main i.e. gas only, then the maximum grant amount is up to $1300. This is a grant can only be accessed every two years. To apply for the URG you will need to contact your energy or water provider. To apply for the NURG you will need to contact the Victorian Concession Information Line. For further eligibility criteria, referral process and specific information about these grants please visit the DHHS website below or phone the Victorian Concessions Information Line. Also ensure your concession card is registered with the utility company to receive a discount on your energy and water bills.   
  [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/hardship/utility-relief-and-non-mains-utility-grant-scheme](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/hardship/utility-relief-and-non-mains-utility-grant-scheme)

Victorian Concessions Information Line Phone: 1800 658 521

* **Free Kinder is coming to Thomastown in 2023**The Andrews Labor Government has committed to expand the Best Start, Best Life program with three major new initiatives: Making kinder free across the state, delivering a new year of universal Pre-Prep for 4-year-olds, Establishing 50 government operated childcare centres, this will save families up to $2,500 per child every year. Find out more at [www.vic.gov.au/kinder](http://www.vic.gov.au/kinder)

# Free Stuff for Students

* **Free TAFE** to give Victorians more training and new careers, visit [Free TAFE for lots of jobs | Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au)](https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe) to check your eligibility.
* **Free Driving Lessons** - Almost 3,000 newly arrived migrants and disadvantaged young Victorians will receive free road safety education and professional driving lessons, under new funding. For more information on Community Road Safety Grants and L2P, please visit [vicroads.vic.gov.au](file:///C:\Users\vicanmd\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\BUB2FYYF\vicroads.vic.gov.au)
* **Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee** for eligible casual workers – Check your eligibility and sign up at vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee or on the Service Victoria app.
* **Student Loans, Scholarships & Fee Help -** Tertiary education fees in Australia are payable for courses at tertiary education institutions such as Universities and TAFEs. The government provides loans and subsidies to relieve the cost of tertiary education for eligible students. Australian citizens and permanent visa holders can access government loans including HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and VET-HELP to assist with paying tuition fees, overseas study expenses, student services and amenities fees.

Scholarships - [www.studyassist.gov.au/you-study/scholarships](http://www.studyassist.gov.au/you-study/scholarships)

HECS Help - [www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/hecs-help](http://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/hecs-help)

VET Help - [www.studyassist.gov.au/vet-students/vet-student-loans](http://www.studyassist.gov.au/vet-students/vet-student-loans)

Fee Help - [www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help](http://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help)

* **Free L and P Plate testing**: Beginning in August online learner permit and probationary licence hazard perception tests will be free. All new drivers in the state will no longer pay a probationary car licence fee or permit issue fee. Find out more at [Learner Permit Test Online : VicRoads](https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/your-ls/learner-permit-test-online)