



## OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

The Foundation supports the extra costs associated with schooling for Aboriginal students around Victoria. These costs not otherwise funded from government or other educational funding sources, such as school uniforms, books, school camps and other school associated costs.

The Foundation is Aboriginal led and listens to the diverse needs of Victorian Aboriginal families. We know that families know the educational needs of their children and provide a safe support system to establish self determination

### Our Story

The Opening the Doors Foundation is an Aboriginal-led community organisation supporting educational opportunities for Aboriginal children. The Foundation enables Aboriginal students to participate fully and equally in education, and supports their families to make their own choices about their children's future. The Foundation believes that consistent support and self determination are a key to raising dreams and aspirations of the next generation.

It is the intention of the Opening the Doors Foundation that the Indigenous youth of Victoria will be proud of what it does in offering them an educational opportunity that will make a real and tangible difference in their lives.

Educational opportunities are realised by meeting the costs of uniforms, school books, IT equipment, stationary and more. By providing support and being led by the wishes of families and on the ground Aboriginal support networks, students are able to attend the school of their choice, with correct uniform and equipment. This is vital to the self esteem of our young ones.

The achievement of a successful and culturally appropriate academic experience allows the potential to radically alter the systemic and generational disadvantage currently being experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## Applications for educational assistance in 2023 are now open

**The school can apply for this grant on your behalf with the attached authority form completed, signed and returned to the school office.**

**Or**

Families can apply direct by contacting the foundation via an email to [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au) and request a grant application email

The 2023 grant round is online application only and can be filled in via phone or computer.

If you received a grant for your child in 2021 or 2022 an email will have been sent to you with a link that will allow you to access the online grant application process. Invitation emails have recently been sent.

If you haven't received a link and would like to apply directly please email [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au)

If you haven't received a grant from the Foundation before and would like to lodge an application directly, please email [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au)

No paper based version of the grant application form is available. If you need help with the lodgement of a grant application form and have difficulty accessing a computer please contact the school office or ring the foundation help desk on 1300 236356 and select option 1.

#### **CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANCE**

- The Applicant must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- The Applicant must be enrolled in a Catholic or Independent educational institution located within the State boundaries of Victoria.
- The Applicant can only submit one regular grant per year.
- First time applicants must provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality Certificate.
- The progress report must be completed by applicants who have received a grant from the Foundation in the past.
- Applications will only be accepted on the official Application Form and ALL SECTIONS MUST be completed.
- Applications will not be accepted after the closing date - 8th April 2023

#### **MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT**

Prep	\$750
Year 1-6	\$600
Year 7	\$1,200
Year 8-12	\$1,000

#### **ARE YOU APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

A Confirmation of Aboriginality certificate must be submitted the first time any student applies for a grant from the foundation. After the first year, we keep it in our files so you will not need to submit the certificate again in the future.

If you do not have a certificate, contact 1300 236356 or [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au)

#### **Other relevant Information**

Although not a requirement, Trustees appreciate seeing anything extra that contribute to their understanding of the students year, such as school reports, photos, certificates or anything else that would tell the students story. Trustees are proud to see young indigenous children thrive in school and enjoy understanding their journey.

Further information can be found on the following website <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>

[If you wish the school to apply on your behalf, Please fill in the attached Authority form and return to school office](#)



## Opening the Doors Foundation – St Mary’s PS Application Authority

I \_\_\_\_\_ parent/guardian of

\_\_\_\_\_

authorise St Mary’s Primary School Administration staff to apply for Opening the Doors Foundation Grant on my behalf.

I have provided a Certificate or Recognition of Aboriginality with this authority form.

**If you currently receive any of the following please circle** (this does not affect your application)

Parenting Payment / Abstudy / Family Tax benefit A/B / funding from elsewhere

**Please circle where you would like your grant to be allocated -**

St Mary’s Primary School Levies / School Shoes / Sports Shoes / Uniform

**Please circle supplier from the eligible list below -**

Evans Shoes / Footlocker Shepparton / Intersports / Jeff Young Shoes / Rebel Shepparton

The School Uniform Shop / GV School Uniforms

Primary Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student/s Name & Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_