



WE HELP FAMILIES MEET THE COSTS OF EDUCATION

This information sheet provides suggestions on assistance available to help you meet the cost of your children's education.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE...

**CALL US TO MAKE A
FREE APPOINTMENT.**

5979 2762



Talk to your school

If you are experiencing hardship, speak to the School Welfare Officer, Principal or nominated parent payment contact person about support options available.

These may include but are not limited to:

- Payment options including waiving or reducing fees, deferring payments, extending deadlines, flexible payment plans, cost saving alternatives & referrals to government and community assistance programs;
- Referrals to State Schools' Relief (see below);
- Assistance with second hand text books or text book hire schemes;
- Access to a personal device during times where a device is required at school or where a device has not been purchased or leased by the family.

Low cost computers

Computerbank's low cost computers/laptops are available to concession card holders, students and community groups. Computers are refurbished, donated, low cost computers with a keyboard, mouse, monitor, cords, user guide and internet ready with word processing and a range of free programs. Call 9600 9161 or visit www.computerbank.org.au



www.wportcomsupport.org.au
info@wportcomsupport.org.au

Call us: 03 5979 2762

Visit us: 185 High Street Hastings, Vic 3915

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Uniform and school shoes

State Schools' Relief (SSR) provides assistance with uniforms, shoes & other items to students in need who are attending a Victorian government school.

In 2019, Prep & Year 7 recipients of the Camps Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualify for a uniform voucher/pack through SSR. Speak to your Principal or School Welfare Officer to apply. Additional uniform assistance may also be available. www.ssr.net.au

Government Assistance

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund: Financial assistance provided by the Victorian Government and paid to the school to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sport and excursions.

Contact your school for information.
www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx

Parent Payments in Government Schools

The Education and Training Reform Act states that all students in government schools must have free instruction in the standard curriculum program.

Schools can request payment for:

Essential learning items such as text books, stationery, incursions, etc. Speak to your school about the option to buy similar materials from other places that may be cheaper.

Optional items offered in addition to the standard curriculum, which you are not obligated to pay. These may include school magazines, class photos, music tuition, formals etc.

Schools may invite voluntary financial contribution towards a building or library fund but it is optional to pay it. www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/parentpaymentfaqs.aspx

Stationery

Shops may be cheaper than school ordering. Officeworks will price match and even give a small discount if their advertised price is the more expensive.

Online Shopping

Shopping online for new or second hand school items such as text books, uniforms, laptops/ computers and musical instruments can yield some savings. When buying textbooks, make sure you get the right edition. Your school may organise a day to buy and sell second hand books, or you can try these websites:

- Low Cost Computers: www.computerbank.org.au
- Sustainable School Shop: www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
- School Xchange: www.schoolxchange.com.au
- Book Outlet: www.bookoutlet.com
- Book Depository: www.bookdepository.com
- Ebay: www.ebay.com.au

Community Organisations

Western Port Community Support offer an annual Education Assistance program to provide support to disadvantaged families with the cost of items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and shoes, fees and technology. Clients can make an appointment by phoning 5979 2762. The program commences in October and concludes in early February.

Assistance is available to families living in the following postcodes: 3926, 3911, 3918, 3920, 3919, 3915, 3916, 3927, 3912, 3913.

NILS Loans

Financial programs for people on low or limited incomes that may assist families with educational costs and other expenses. The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) gives access to fair and safe credit (up to \$1,500) for essential educational items. Ph. 5979 2762.



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