



ARDOCH

REALISING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL  
THROUGH EDUCATION

2022

VICTORIA

# ARDOCH SCHOOL COSTS GUIDE

A guide for parents on how to  
manage and reduce school costs



# INTRODUCTION



From the first day you send your child to school, and every year thereafter, you hope that they will find friends, have fun, and develop a love of learning that will guide them throughout their time at school. We share your passion for your child's future and believe that every child's potential should be realised through full participation in education. We have put together this guide to help you navigate the costs involved with going to school in Victoria.

No journey through the education system is the same, however meeting school costs is a challenge that every parent and carer faces. There can be many unexpected expenses throughout the school year, but there are also several government programs and community groups that can help you reduce these costs and provide ongoing support and assistance.

The guide is available in the following languages: English, Vietnamese, Arabic, Dari.

An updated version of this guide is available on our website ([www.ardoch.org.au](http://www.ardoch.org.au)) in November of each year.

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## ABOUT ARDOCH



Ardoch has been supporting children and young people to realise their potential through full participation in education for over 30 years.

All children face challenges at school, and many things can affect a child's ability to engage in the classroom. It is easy for vulnerable students to fall behind as they progress through school, and difficult for them to catch up. Ardoch works closely with our schools to support vulnerable students through our educational programs.

Our mission is to increase engagement in education, build the aspirations and enhance the learning outcomes of children in under resourced communities. We achieve this by mobilising community and workplace volunteers to build the capacity of schools and early years centres. We also advocate for, and seek to influence, policy change to reduce inequity in education.

Ardoch partners with more than 150 schools and early years services to deliver tailored education support programs to more than 18,000 children and young people across Australia each year. The majority of our partners are in Victoria, where we have a particular focus on communities around Dandenong, Frankston, the northern suburbs of Geelong, Hume, Wyndham, and Melbourne's West. Additional partner schools and early years services are located in inner and greater Melbourne, Ballarat, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney.

Our programs are focused on cultural activities, literacy, science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and offering incursions and excursions that enable children and young people to broaden their horizons.

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## 1. SCHOOL FEES

### – what is compulsory, what is voluntary?

All children of school age have the right to access free education at a government school, but there are many additional fees that schools may charge.

These can fall into the following three categories:

#### ★ Essential education items

- A school diary
- School uniform
- Travel to school sports
- Camps
- Excursions/school visits

Schools decide what is essential and this is a **compulsory** bill. It should be sent to you at least six weeks before the end of the school year, to cover the following year.

The school may also be able to offer a payment plan. Contact them to find out what support they can offer.

#### ★ Optional extras

- Music lessons
- Extra-curricular activities
- Class photos
- Formals/graduation events

This is an **optional** bill, but your child will not be included in some activities if this bill is not paid.

Sometimes this bill includes items, such as lockers, that most other students will have. Ask your school for support so that your child is not left out.

## SCHOOL FEES (cont.)



### ★ Voluntary contributions

These contributions can include costs for buildings or buying new school equipment.

Schools encourage payment because the money contributes to the school budget and allows the school to offer a richer program to the students. Fees are **voluntary** and students should not be prevented from participating in activities or curriculum because these contributions are not paid. This is a requirement of the Parent Payments Policy, which schools must follow.

To view this policy, visit [www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy](http://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy).

You can also visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au> and search 'school costs and fees' for more information on all kinds of school fees.

## 2. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS



### ★ Federal government assistance

Federal government assistance is provided through Centrelink. For up-to-date information, please visit the Centrelink website at [www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink](http://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink) and search for the relevant payment.

Here is a summary of payments that may be relevant for students and parents:

#### ABSTUDY – The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Study Scheme

Indigenous secondary students may be eligible for Abstudy, which provides financial assistance for schooling or further studies. Indigenous primary students living at home and aged 14 years or more on 1st January in the year of study may also be eligible for assistance.

#### Assistance for Isolated Children's Scheme

This scheme provides for families who have a primary, secondary or under 16-year-old tertiary student, who cannot go to an appropriate government school because they live too far way, have a disability or special need that cannot be met at a local state school.

#### Youth Allowance

A young person may apply for the Youth Allowance Scheme through Centrelink if they are:

- 16 to 21 and looking for full time work
- 18 to 24 and studying full time
- 16 to 24 and doing a full time Australian apprenticeship
- 16 to 17 and independent or needing to live away from home to study
- 16 to 17, studying full time and have completed year 12 or equivalent

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS (cont.)



### Child Care Subsidy program

If you use an approved childcare service, even if it is just in the school holidays, you may be eligible to receive the Child Care Subsidy to help with the cost.

If you are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy, you may also be able to apply for extra help through the Additional Child Care Subsidy. There are three categories of payments that you may be able to apply for depending on your circumstances:

- Grandparent
- Transition to work
- Temporary financial hardship

### ★ **Local government assistance**

Local governments generally do not assist individuals and families with education costs. Some local government areas provide programs under School Focused Youth Service funds, but this is a service provided to schools. Ask your school administration if the school accesses the School Focused Youth Service.

## 3. COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS



### ★ Community organisations

There are a number of community and crisis support organisations that provide families with support and financial or material aid. This can include assistance for school-related costs and may come in the form of vouchers for items like stationery, uniforms, textbooks or food.

#### The Smith Family

The Smith Family offers a Learning for Life program to students facing disadvantage, providing extra support for students to stay at school and go on to further studies or a job. There are limited scholarships available.

<b>Eligibility</b>	The Smith Family must work in your school.
<b>Support offered</b>	Financial assistance for education costs, connection to local learning opportunities and access to educational programs. Learning for Life students are also eligible for the Smith's Family Digital Access Program detailed in the <b>'Technology'</b> section of this booklet.
<b>How to apply</b>	Referral from your principal or wellbeing coordinator. <b><a href="http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au">www.thesmithfamily.com.au</a></b> Ph: 1300 326 459 (general enquiries)

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS (cont.)



### St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul may be able to help in several areas relating to disability, aged care, disaster recovery, housing support and settling in Australia support. For a full and comprehensive list, check the St Vincent de Paul Society website.

#### **Eligibility**

Programs are designed to assist families and children who may be experiencing hardship.

#### **Support offered**

Material assistance is available through Vinnies Centres. Vinnies Centres can provide (dependent on supply) a variety of goods including furniture, clothing and household goods. Vinnies can provide food or food vouchers, clothing, furniture, budget support, assistance with utility bills or back to school costs, information, and advocacy.

Note that due to Covid-19, some Vinnies services and locations may be affected. Please check the website for the most up to date information.

#### **How to apply**

Contact the welfare assistance line below. A home visit may be needed to assess your family's needs.

**[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)** (click 'find help')

Ph: 1800 305 330 (Welfare Assistance Line – free and confidential)

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS (cont.)



### A Start in Life

A Start in Life provides ongoing financial support for education costs.

**Eligibility** You can be referred by yourself, a welfare agency, community groups, schools and other educational institutions. Students must be engaged in full-time education.

**Support offered** Depending on eligibility, may include school fees, books and stationery, school uniforms, regulation school shoes, school camps and excursions, remedial tuition, IT, extra and co-curricular activities, work experience, and assistance with living costs.

**How to apply** Contact the Student & Family Management Team on the number below or email [sfmt@astartinlife.org.au](mailto:sfmt@astartinlife.org.au)  
**[www.astartinlife.org.au](http://www.astartinlife.org.au)**  
Ph: (02) 9264 3017

### Opening the Doors Foundation

This foundation provides assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

**Eligibility** Must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student attending an independent school in Victoria.

**Support offered** Covering extra costs associated with schooling, costs otherwise not funded by the government, or other education costs such as uniforms, books, school camps and others.

**How to apply** Email [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au) and you will be sent a link to the online application form. A paper copy of the form is also available via the website below.  
**[www.openingthedoors.org.au](http://www.openingthedoors.org.au)**  
Ph: (03) 9443 9070

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS (cont.)



### Good Shepherd Australia

Good Shepherd has a range of financial programs and loans that assist with education and other expenses.

<b>Eligibility</b>	Recipient must be a Health Care Card holder or a low-income earner.
<b>Support offered</b>	No interest loans (NILS) of up to \$1500 for essential goods and services including education expenses. Loan is repaid over 12 months and can be used for household items like fridges, washing machines, TVs and furniture, medical procedures and dental services, education essentials such as computers and text books, car repairs or registration and some other items as requested.
<b>How to apply</b>	Visit the Good Shepherd website below and find your local NILS provider. <b><a href="http://goodshp.org.au/services/nils">goodshp.org.au/services/nils</a></b> Ph: 13 64 57

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS (cont.)



### Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ (Saver Plus)

The Saver Plus program is a free financial education and matched savings program.

#### **Eligibility**

You must be over 18, have regular income from work or Centrelink (you or your partner), have a child at school or starting next year, or studying yourself and have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

#### **Support offered**

The Saver Plus program will help you save \$500 over 10 months and then match this dollar for dollar to spend on educational items. The program involves education sessions on finances, which give you tips on how to make savings. Saver Plus is delivered in 22 communities across Victoria. Due to Covid-19 the program is currently being run online.

#### **How to apply**

Visit the below site for more details and to see if there is a program for your community. Submit an enquiry form to see if you are eligible.

**[www.bsl.org.au/services/money-matters/saver-plus/](http://www.bsl.org.au/services/money-matters/saver-plus/)**

Ph: 1300 610 355

Email: [saverplus@bsl.org.au](mailto:saverplus@bsl.org.au)

## 4. FINDING SUPPORT ONLINE

The internet offers you access to many local and specific resources to help you to find general support services and crisis support.

Below are keywords to search if you are:

1. Experiencing a crisis

*Material aid; emergency relief; financial aid; emergency housing or accommodation; food vouchers; crisis assistance*

2. Needing school-related support

*School financial support; education financial support*

### ★ Useful websites

[Infoxchange Service Seeker](#)

A search site for all community support services.

**[www.serviceseeker.com.au](http://www.serviceseeker.com.au)**

[Health Direct Australia](#)

This is a government website, which lists health, social and disability services in Victoria. Your local council website will also usually have a community services directory that you can use to look up services in your area.

**[about.healthdirect.gov.au/nhsd](http://about.healthdirect.gov.au/nhsd)**

[The CRIS \(Crisis Referral Information System\)](#)

CRIS is an online directory containing information on many Victorian community-based support services and for people seeking welfare assistance, advice and general referral and support.

**[cris.crisisservices.org.au](http://cris.crisisservices.org.au)**

[CISVic \(Community Information and Support Victoria\)](#)

CISVic is the peak body representing local community information and support services. Its local services provide information, referral and support services (including emergency relief) for people experiencing personal and financial difficulties.

**[www.cisvic.org.au](http://www.cisvic.org.au)**

## 5. UNIFORMS

### ★ Within your school

#### Uniform shop

Often, the uniform shop will keep second-hand stock as well as new items.

#### Swap days

Some schools have swap days, which are usually organised by the Parents' Association. Check with your school to see what they have available.

#### Connecting with other families

You may know someone who has children slightly older than your children who could pass on second-hand school uniforms.

#### Setting up a system

If your school doesn't have a second-hand shop, you may like to set one up within your school. Second-hand uniform shops are often run by parents within their school so contact the school's Parents' Association to find out more information or to start one yourself.

### ★ State Schools' Relief (SSR)

SSR is a charity providing new clothing, shoes and textbooks for children in need who attend Victorian government schools. They can also contribute towards the purchase of branded uniform items. SSR support can only be accessed through the school, so please contact the school principal or welfare officer to see if you are eligible for support.

**[www.ssr.net.au](http://www.ssr.net.au)**

Ph: (03) 8769 8400

#### Glasses for kids

SSR, with the support of the Department of Education and Training, delivers a free vision screening program for Prep to Year 3 students at participating schools. If students are found to have a vision impairment, the program also facilitates follow up eye testing and glasses. Parental consent is required for screening.

### ★ Generic (unbranded) uniform items

Department stores such as Big W, Target and Kmart sell a range of plain, school coloured clothes that can be used as uniform wear. These garments retail for a fraction of the regular uniform suppliers' price. If available, ask your school for an iron-on or sew-on logo to put on purchased items.

### ★ Online options

The following websites may have second-hand uniforms for your school. Searching is free on both websites – although listing an item to sell on the Sustainable School Shop may incur a small fee (about \$1.50).

- Sustainable School Shop: [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)
- The Uniform Exchange: [www.theuniformexchange.com.au](http://www.theuniformexchange.com.au)

Online community forums and groups may also have second-hand uniform for sale/exchange. See Facebook marketplace or [www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au). Please be cautious of scams when using these sites.

## 6. TEXTBOOKS

### ★ Within your school

#### School book sale days

Often a school will organise for second-hand textbooks to be sold at discounted prices to students. Most schools hold their second-hand book sales in early December.

#### Hiring textbooks

Some schools allow families to hire textbooks for the year at a nominal cost. Under this scheme it is the student's responsibility to care for the textbooks and ensure their return to the school at the end of the year.

#### Understanding what is needed

Speak with the school about the textbook list and ask about the following:

- **When in the year are the textbooks needed?** Some textbooks may be needed later in the year and some earlier. You can buy the essentials first.
- **Is it important to have the most up-to-date edition?** Previous editions are much cheaper than the latest edition and may be just as acceptable to the school even though they are not listed on the official textbook list.

#### Get support

Les Twentyman Foundation has a 'Back to School' program, which can provide textbook support to eligible students. Students also receive a **stationery pack**. Ask your school counsellor for more information.

[www.ltfoundation.com.au](http://www.ltfoundation.com.au)

#### Setting up a textbook sale day at your school

You may like to be involved and set up a textbook sale day within your school. Second-hand textbook sale days are often set up by parents within their school, so contact the school's Parents' Association to find out more information and get the ball rolling.

## ★ Selling your old textbooks

You can sell your old textbooks through a range of avenues:

1. **The school's textbook supplier may accept second-hand textbooks for a trade in.**  
Only current textbooks in good condition are usually accepted. The school's textbook supplier details will have their contact details on the booklist issued to you by the school.
2. **You can sell textbooks online.** See the options below.

## ★ Online options

There are many online options for both new and second-hand textbooks, which may be cheaper than the school's recommended supplier. Make sure you search for the correct edition and factor in **postage costs**.

For second-hand textbooks try the following websites:

- [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)
- [www.lilydalebooks.com.au](http://www.lilydalebooks.com.au) (based in Melbourne)
- [www.tstextbooks.com.au](http://www.tstextbooks.com.au)
- [www.textbooksoz.com](http://www.textbooksoz.com) (for new and second-hand textbooks)
- [www.brotherhoodbooks.org.au](http://www.brotherhoodbooks.org.au) (for novels)
- [www.ebay.com.au](http://www.ebay.com.au)
- [www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)
- [www.schoolbooks.com.au](http://www.schoolbooks.com.au) (for new and second-hand text books for secondary school)

For cheaper new books try the following online:

- [www.angusrobertson.com.au](http://www.angusrobertson.com.au)
- [www.bookdepository.com](http://www.bookdepository.com)
- [www.booktopia.com.au](http://www.booktopia.com.au)
- [www.dymocks.com.au](http://www.dymocks.com.au)
- [www.robinsonsbooks.com.au](http://www.robinsonsbooks.com.au)
- [www.readings.com.au](http://www.readings.com.au)

**★ Your local library**

Your library may have key textbooks that are available to borrow.

**★ Sharing books**

There may be an option to share in the purchase and usage of a textbook with another student. Costs are reduced by each of you paying half the price and then timetabling or organising usage around your individual study needs.

**7. STATIONERY**

Some schools have a communal stationery pool, which parents contribute to by paying a fee. Other schools expect you to purchase all the supplies based on a list provided by them.

**★ Shop around**

There are often cheaper options than the school supplier. Check out these stores (in-store or online) that sell stationery:

- [www.kmart.com.au](http://www.kmart.com.au)
- [www.bigw.com.au](http://www.bigw.com.au)
- [www.officeworks.com.au](http://www.officeworks.com.au)

Shop around and take your list to local stationery shops and they may be able to quote you on how much it will cost to fill.

Use stationery left over from previous years if appropriate.

## 8. TECHNOLOGY



The Department of Education and Training has clear guidelines on parent payments for the use of personal devices at school. You can view these guidelines and read their Frequently Asked Questions page by searching for 'personal devices parent payments' at [www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal](http://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal).

Some organisations can help you meet the cost of devices and other IT equipment.

### ★ Schools

Schools may have payment plans in place to help you pay for IT equipment. Ask them to see how they can support you.

### ★ Good Shepherd Australia

Good Shepherd has loans that you may be eligible for to pay for IT equipment.

[goodshep.org.au/services/nils](http://goodshep.org.au/services/nils)

Ph: 136 457

### ★ The Smith Family – Digital Access Program

The Smith Family's Digital Access Program is available for students who are part of the Learning for Life Program. This program, based on the family's needs, ensures that all Learning for Life families have access to low cost internet and devices, technology support and the knowledge needed to make the most of the equipment.

[www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/technology/digital-access](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/technology/digital-access)

Ph: 1300 326 459 (general enquiries)

### ★ Buying

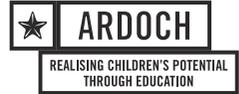
#### Computer Bank

Computer Bank is an independent not-for-profit organisation that recycles and refurbishes computers and offers them to disadvantaged individuals and community groups at discounted prices.

[www.computerbank.org.au](http://www.computerbank.org.au)

Ph: (03) 9600 9161

## TECHNOLOGY (cont.)



### WorkVentures

This is Australia's oldest not-for-profit IT social enterprise helping people engage with technology for over 30 years. Their refurbished computers are top quality machines donated by large corporates, which the WorkVentures team bring back to as-new condition and sell for a fraction of their original cost.

[www.workventures.com.au](http://www.workventures.com.au)

Ph: 1800 112 205 | (03) 9879 5211

### ★ **Free services**

Schools, local libraries and the State Library of Victoria all offer computer and internet access free of charge.

## 9. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUPPORT



### ★ Community connections

Walking, riding a bike or carpooling are all great ways to get to school. Email or ask other parents to see if there are any lift-sharing arrangements your children may be able to be a part of.

### ★ Public transport

#### Student Pass

Primary and secondary school students aged 5 to 18 can travel on a child myki which is 50% cheaper than an adult myki. School students can also purchase a half or full year student pass in their chosen area but must also carry a Public Transport Victoria (PTV) Approved School Student ID card or PTV School Student ID card. A Student Pass entitles primary and secondary students to unlimited travel on public transport within Victoria. It will be electronically loaded onto a concession myki. Both the myki and PTV Student Concession Card must always be carried when travelling.

[www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au) (search 'school students')

#### Public Transport Victoria (PTV) – Student Concession Card

Concession cards for travel by secondary and tertiary students over the age of 18 on public transport are available by completing a current 'Student Concession Application Form'. They are 50% of the adult myki fare.

[www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au) (search 'student concession')

### ★ Fares allowance

This allowance assists students who are living away from their permanent home to cover the cost of travelling to and from their place of study. Your local Centrelink can provide you with further information.

## 10. CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS COSTS

### ★ Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply.

Each eligible student is paid \$125 per year (primary) or \$225 per year (secondary). Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. Most payments start from March onwards. Applications can be received over term one and two.

[www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au) (search 'camps, sports and excursion fund')

## 11. FOOD COSTS

A healthy diet helps set up students for success. Breakfast is a key meal to help children actively engage at school.

Some tips to reduce food-related costs are:

- Buying bulk packets
- Packing a home lunch
- Shopping at markets

Some schools have Breakfast Clubs, which can help to provide healthy breakfast options for students. Foodbank Victoria receives government funding to run the School Breakfast Clubs Program for 500 schools in Victoria. Check with your school to find out about potential support through breakfast clubs and/or school pantries.

**If you are in crisis or struggling on an ongoing basis** to provide breakfasts and lunches for your children, it may be worth seeking crisis or ongoing assistance. See the '**Local Government Contact**' section for information about services in your community. See also the '**Finding Support Online**' section which offers sites to search for food assistance in your local area.

## 12. EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES



### ★ Scholarships

#### The Department of Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training provides scholarships to eligible students. Scholarships range in value from \$250 to over \$2000. Applications can be done from August or October each year, depending on the student's year level.

Visit [www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships) to apply.

Visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/student-scholarships.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/student-scholarships.aspx) for more information.

#### Public Education Foundation

The Public Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing scholarships to young people in state schools to help them reach their potential. Scholarship recipients receive financial and academic support to help students with the extra costs of public schooling and provide them with opportunities to extend their talents and pursue their aspirations. The Public Education Foundation is based in NSW, but there are a number of scholarships available at the national level and within Victorian.

Applications close between **August** and **September** each year.

[www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships/students](http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships/students)

#### Non-government schools

Non-government schools often provide a range of scholarships to successful applicants. These scholarships can be partial or full scholarships for payment of academic fees.

Private school scholarships are usually advertised early in the year for the forthcoming year. For example, scholarships for 2022 are usually advertised in February/March 2021.

To find out what secondary scholarships may be available, contact the education institution directly or have a look on the ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) website, which provides information about upcoming ACER testing dates for participating Victorian schools.

[www.acer.org/au/scholarship](http://www.acer.org/au/scholarship)

Ph: 1300 768 952 (parent helpline)

**AIEF** and **Yalari** are organisations that provide Indigenous students with scholarship funding to attend leading Australian private schools, including several based in Victoria.

Visit their websites for more information:

- AIEF: [www.aief.com.au/scholarships](http://www.aief.com.au/scholarships)
- Yalari: [www.yalari.org/scholarships/](http://www.yalari.org/scholarships/)

### ★ Tutoring

Professional tutoring services can be expensive. Contact your school or local council, or search online, about free tutoring or homework clubs in your area. A number of community organisations, and often your local library, will run free homework clubs and other educational support services.

Many public libraries and schools now offer a free online study support service called 'Studiosity'. This service provides students with access to a network of professional subject specialists for homework help. Students in Years 4 through to 12 can get free help with tricky homework questions, assignments or exams by logging on at the library, school or from home (using their library card or school access code). This service is available Sunday to Friday from 3pm to midnight AET.

Follow these steps to access Studiosity online.

1. Go to the website at [www.studiosity.com/connect](http://www.studiosity.com/connect)
2. Log in by using your library card or school access code
3. Select the subject and year level for which you would like assistance

### ★ Education support and information bodies

#### The Department of Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for the state school system in Victoria and offers learning and development support and services. The Department's website has a lot of valuable information for parents.

[www.education.vic.gov.au/parents](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents)

#### The Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV)

CECV is the representative body of Catholic schools in Victoria and provides a number of resources for parents.

[www.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au)

#### Independent Schools Australia (ISA)

ISA represents the interests of the Independent school sector on a national basis. ISA's website valuable information on independent schools.

[www.isa.edu.au](http://www.isa.edu.au)

### ★ Relevant associations

#### Parents Victoria

Parents Victoria represents parents to State and Federal Governments, educational bureaucracies and institutions, community organisations and the media.

[www.parentsvictoria.asn.au](http://www.parentsvictoria.asn.au)

Ph: 0419 716 171 (within Melbourne) or 1800 032 023 (outside Melbourne)

#### School parents' association

Many schools have a parent association that can represent your issues to the school management. They may also be able to put in place processes to assist with reducing costs within your school, for example, second-hand uniform shop, textbook exchange day.

## EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES (cont.)



### Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI)

The VAEAI promotes access and equity for Koorie people through the development of education programs that are culturally relevant, reinforcing Koorie identity.

**[www.vaeai.org.au](http://www.vaeai.org.au)**

Ph: (03) 9481 0800

### Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc (ACSSO)

Provides support for the School Improvement and Governance Network. It gives general information and advice about schools and educational issues.

**[www.acsso.org.au](http://www.acsso.org.au)**

0497 042 026 (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)

0418 470 604 (Monday through to Friday)

### Victorian Multicultural Commission

The VMC is the main link between Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and the government.

**[www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au](http://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au)**

Ph: (03) 9651 5901

If you need an interpreter please call: 131 450.

### Community Information & Support Victoria

CISVic is the main body representing local community information and support services (formerly Citizens Advice Bureau). For help with education services and other resource food vouchers, mental health services) please ask your local CISVic agency.

You can find your local agency here:

**[www.cisvic.org.au/home/find-your-local-agency](http://www.cisvic.org.au/home/find-your-local-agency)**

## 13. COVID-19 RELIEF AND SUPPORT



There are a range of Covid-19 specific supports available for individuals and families in Victoria.

### Victorian state government

You can find out more information about financial assistance offered by the Victorian government here:

**[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/financial-and-other-support-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/financial-and-other-support-coronavirus-covid-19)**

There are a range of useful resources listed on the Multicultural Commission's website:

**[www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-assistance](http://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-assistance)**

### Charities

There are other support services available through charities such as:

- The Salvation Army **[www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/)**
- St Vincent's De Paul Society (Vinnie's) **[www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp#!vic](http://www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp#!vic)**
- The Australian Red Cross **[www.redcross.org.au/get-help](http://www.redcross.org.au/get-help)**

### Neighbourhood house

Your local neighbourhood house will likely have resources available to assist you.

To find your local house, visit this website: **[www.nhvic.org.au/find-a-neighbourhood-house](http://www.nhvic.org.au/find-a-neighbourhood-house)**.

### Local council

For support services available through your local council see the **'local government contacts'** section of this booklet.

## 14. COST CUTTING CALENDAR – what to do when

Month	What to do	Notes and tips
<b>PRIOR TO THE SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
<b>January</b>	Apply for private school scholarships	See local papers and the <b>'Education Support Services'</b> section of this booklet.
<b>August – November</b>	Apply for Department of Education and Training scholarships	See the <b>'Education Support Services'</b> section of this booklet.
<b>December</b>	Organise textbooks	Look for cheap second-hand or online options. See <b>'Textbooks'</b> section of his booklet.
	Check if your child will need a digital device and organise	See the <b>'Technology'</b> section of this booklet.
	Check for relevant Federal Government assistance	See the <b>'Government support programs'</b> section of this booklet.

## COST CUTTING CALENDAR – what to do when (cont.)

Month	What to do	Notes and tips
<b>DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR</b>		
If you are experiencing <b>financial hardship</b> and finding it difficult to meet school-related costs throughout the year, see the <b>'Community support programs'</b> section for organisations that may be able to assist you		
<b>January</b>	Pay school fees for the year	
	Buy uniforms and stationery	Check for back to school sales at department stores. See the <b>'Stationery'</b> and <b>'Uniforms'</b> section of this booklet.
	Organise how your child will get to and from school	Apply for student travel concessions. See the <b>'Public transport support'</b> section of this booklet.
<b>March</b>	Check with your school about accessing the CSEF	See the <b>'Camps, Sports and Excursions'</b> section of this booklet.
<b>July</b>	Budget for new school shoes	
	Explore options to set up a textbook sale day at your school for the end of year	Contact the school's Parents Association.

## 15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Council Name	Phone	Website	Key Search Words
Alpine Shire Council	5755 0555	<a href="http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au">www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au</a>	Children Services
Ararat Rural City Council	5355 0200	<a href="http://www.ararat.vic.gov.au">www.ararat.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Life
Ballarat City Council	5320 5500	<a href="http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au">www.ballarat.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Banyule City Council	9490 4222	<a href="http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au">www.banyule.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Services
Bass Coast Shire Council	5671 2211	<a href="http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au">www.basscoast.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Baw Baw Shire Council	5624 2411	<a href="http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au">www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au</a>	Local Directory
Bayside City Council	9599 4444	<a href="http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au">www.bayside.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Benalla Rural City Council	5760 2600	<a href="http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au">www.benalla.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Boroondara City Council	9278 4444	<a href="http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au">www.boroondara.vic.gov.au</a>	Children and Families
Brimbank City Council	9249 4000	<a href="http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au">www.brimbank.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and Children's Services
Buloke Shire Council	1300 520 520	<a href="http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au">www.buloke.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Campaspe Shire Council	5481 2200	<a href="http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au">www.campaspe.vic.gov.au</a>	'Community Directory' <i>(include quotations)</i>
Cardinia Shire Council	1300 787 624	<a href="http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au">www.cardinia.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Services
Central Goldfields Shire Council	5461 0610	<a href="http://www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au">www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and Children's Services
Colac Otway Shire Council	5232 9400	<a href="http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au">www.colacotway.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Services
Corrangamite Shire Council 5593 7100	5593 7100	<a href="http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au">www.corangamite.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and Children's Services
Darebin City Council	8470 8888	<a href="http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au">www.darebin.vic.gov.au</a>	Children Services
East Gippsland Shire Council	5153 9500	<a href="http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au">www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au</a>	My Family
Frankston City Council	1300 322 322	<a href="http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au">www.frankston.vic.gov.au</a>	Family Services
Gannawarra Shire Council	5450 9333	<a href="http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au">www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Glen Eira City Council	9524 3333	<a href="http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au">www.gleneira.vic.gov.au</a>	Support Services
Glenelg Shire Council	1300 453 635	<a href="http://www.glenelg.vic.gov.au">www.glenelg.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directories
Golden Plains Shire Council	5220 7111	<a href="http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au">www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Assistance Directory
Greater Bendigo City Council	5434 6000	<a href="http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au">www.bendigo.vic.gov.au</a>	Children and Families

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS (cont.)



Council Name	Phone	Website	Key Search Words
Greater Dandenong City Council	8571 1000	<a href="http://www.greaterdandenong.com">www.greaterdandenong.com</a>	Directories and Guides
Greater Geelong City Council	5272 5272	<a href="http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au">www.geelongaustralia.com.au</a>	Community Directory
Greater Shepparton City Council	5832 9700	<a href="http://www.greatershepparton.com.au">www.greatershepparton.com.au</a>	Community Group Directory
Hepburn Shire Council	5348 2306	<a href="http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au">www.hepburn.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Hindmarsh Shire Council	5391 4444	<a href="http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au">www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au</a>	Community and Business Directory
Hobsons Bay City Council	1300 179 944	<a href="http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au">www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Horsham Rural City Council	5382 9777	<a href="http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au">www.hrcc.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and Children
Hume City Council	9205 2200	<a href="http://www.hume.vic.gov.au">www.hume.vic.gov.au</a>	People Services
Indigo Shire Council	1300 365 003	<a href="http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au">www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Kingston City Council	1300 653 356	<a href="http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au">www.kingston.vic.gov.au</a>	Family Support Services
Knox City Council	9298 8000	<a href="http://www.knox.vic.gov.au">www.knox.vic.gov.au</a>	Children, Family and Community Services
Latrobe City Council	1300 367 700	<a href="http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au">www.latrobe.vic.gov.au</a>	Families
Loddon Shire Council	5494 1201	<a href="http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au">www.loddon.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	5422 0333	<a href="http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au">www.mrsc.vic.gov.au</a>	Local Directory
Manningham City Council	9840 9333	<a href="http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au">www.manningham.vic.gov.au</a>	Health and Family
Mansfield Shire Council	5775 8555	<a href="http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au">www.mansfield.vic.gov.au</a>	Family Services
Maribyrnong City Council	9688 0200	<a href="http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au">www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au</a>	Families, Children And Youth
Maroondah City Council	1300 882 233	<a href="http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au">www.maroondah.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory
Melton City Council	9747 7200	<a href="http://www.melton.vic.gov.au">www.melton.vic.gov.au</a>	Families and Children
Mildura Rural City Council	5018 8100	<a href="http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au">www.mildura.vic.gov.au</a>	Children
Mitchell Shire Council	5734 6200	<a href="http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au">www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au</a>	Children and Families
Moira Shire Council	5871 9222	<a href="http://www.moira.vic.gov.au">www.moira.vic.gov.au</a>	Families, Children And Youth
Monash City Council	9518 3555	<a href="http://www.monash.vic.gov.au">www.monash.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Directory

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS (cont.)

Council Name	Phone	Website	Key Search Words
Moonee Valley City Council	9243 8888	<a href="http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au">www.mvcc.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and children
Moorabool Shire Council	5366 7100	<a href="http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au">www.moorabool.vic.gov.au</a>	Child and Family services
Moreland City Council	9240 1111	<a href="http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au">www.moreland.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	1300 850 600	<a href="http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au">www.mornpen.vic.gov.au</a>	Community information directory
Mount Alexander Shire Council	5471 1700	<a href="http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au">www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory
Moyne Shire Council	1300 656 564	<a href="http://www.moyne.vic.gov.au">www.moyne.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and children's services
Murrindindi Shire Council	5772 0333	<a href="http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au">www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Services
Nillumbik Shire Council	9433 3111	<a href="http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au">www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au</a>	People and Families
Northern Grampians Shire Council	5358 8700	<a href="http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au">www.ngshire.vic.gov.au</a>	Family and children services
Port Phillip City Council	9209 6777	<a href="http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au">www.portphillip.vic.gov.au</a>	Family, youth and children
Pyrenees Shire Council	1300 797 363	<a href="http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au">www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au</a>	Community services
Borough of Queenscliffe	5258 1377	<a href="http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au">www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory <i>(scroll down to quick links)</i>
South Gippsland Shire Council	5662 9200	<a href="http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au">www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory
Southern Grampians Shire Council	5573 0444	<a href="http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au">www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au</a>	Children's services
Stonnington City Council	8290 1333	<a href="http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au">www.stonnington.vic.gov.au</a>	Children and family services
Strathbogie Shire Council	1800 065 993	<a href="http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au">www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au</a>	Families and children
Surf Coast Shire Council	5261 0600	<a href="http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au">www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au</a>	Families and children
Swan Hill Rural City Council	5036 2333	<a href="http://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au">www.swanhill.vic.gov.au</a>	Families and children
Towong Shire Council	1300 365 222	<a href="http://www.towong.vic.gov.au">www.towong.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory <i>(scroll down to bottom of home page)</i>
Wangaratta Rural City Council	5722 0888	<a href="http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au">www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS (cont.)



Council Name	Phone	Website	Key Search Words
Warrnambool City Council	1300 003 280	<a href="http://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au">www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au</a>	Child and family
Wellington Shire Council	1300 366 244	<a href="http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au">www.wellington.vic.gov.au</a>	Community
West Wimmera Shire Council	13 99 72	<a href="http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au">www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au</a>	Community Support
Whitehorse City Council	9262 6333	<a href="http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au">www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au</a>	Children, families and youth
Whittlesea City Council	9217 2170	<a href="http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au">www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au</a>	Community groups
Wodonga City Council	02 6022 9300	<a href="http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au">www.wodonga.vic.gov.au</a>	Health, Housing & Education <i>(see Albury-Wodonga Community Guide)</i>
Wyndham City Council	1300 023 411	<a href="http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au">www.wyndham.vic.gov.au</a>	Community directory
Yarra City Council	9205 5555	<a href="http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au">www.yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>	Support for families
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	<a href="http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au">www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au</a>	Support for families
Yarriambiack Shire Council	5398 0100	<a href="http://yarriambiack.vic.gov.au">yarriambiack.vic.gov.au</a>	Community services



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We have endeavoured to ensure that information contained in this booklet was accurate at the time of printing. Please contact individual organisations to confirm current information prior to accessing services.

If you found this publication useful or have any suggestions for improvement or details of other services or organisations that should be included, we would welcome your feedback. Please send us an email at [info@ardoch.org.au](mailto:info@ardoch.org.au)

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