



**Brokerage/funding options – Inner and Outer Eastern Metro Area 2021-2022**

<b>Children/Education</b>		
<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Details</b>
Homeless Children's Brokerage Program	Various (including) childcare, recreation, education fees, specialist services,	The brokerage is for current, dependant, accompanying children of clients accessing Specialist Homelessness and Family Violence Services. The funds can be used for education, recreation, engaging in specialist services and promoting a sense of connectedness to their peers and the broader community <a href="mailto:susie.lukis@vt.uniting.org">susie.lukis@vt.uniting.org</a>
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund	Assistance with school trips and sporting activities for Primary and Secondary schools.	The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) 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. \$125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and be tied to the student. Families must register before the end of Term 2 for the payment to be issued that school year. More information and application forms can be downloaded from this website. <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1</a>
Artists for Kids Culture	Engagement with community-arts, music, culture	Artists for Kids Culture provide funds for children aged from 5 years -18 years. Funds are provided for those experiencing hardship for: music, sport, art, cultural activities, camps and personal development. Scholarships are also available. Further info & applications available here <a href="http://www.akc.org.au">www.akc.org.au</a>
Department of Human Services Early Start Kindergarten Grant	Kindergarten program	The Early Start Kindergarten grant, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, provides eligible three year old children access to an additional early year of quality kindergarten program per week free of charge or at minimal cost. From 2013 the grant will be available for up to 15 hours per week.



		<p>To be eligible children must :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-be aged three years by 30 April in the year that they attend kindergarten AND</li> <li>-be an Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander OR be known to Child Protection (including children referred from Child Protection to Child FIRST).</li> </ul> <p>The Early Start Kindergarten grant is paid directly to the early childhood service.  <a href="https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/early-start-kindergarten.aspx">https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/early-start-kindergarten.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/kindergarten">https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/kindergarten</a></p>
National Disability Insurance Scheme Australian Government	All Disability services	<p>The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers.</p> <p>The NDIS will provide about 460,000 Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life.</p> <p>As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life.</p> <p>The NDIS supports people with disability to build skills and capability so they can participate in the community and employment.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/what-ndis">https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/what-ndis</a></p> <p>NDIA Phone number: 1800 800 110</p>
Child care subsidy Australian Government	Child subsidy	<p>Assistance with Child care is dependent on the families situation, please see the website and speak with the child care centre</p> <p><a href="https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy">https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy</a></p>
State Schools Relief	Education	<p>Uniforms for any Victorian government school. SSR only responds to requests from principals, assistant principals and welfare coordinators. Parents or carers who are struggling financially to provide for their child's government education should make an</p>



		<p>appointment with the school principal or assistant principal/welfare coordinator to discuss their issues.</p> <p>Calculators for higher level maths can be obtained as well as up to \$160.00 of text books in the higher year.</p> <p>SSR cannot supply laptops and dongles as of Nov 2022 per uniform applications.</p> <p><a href="https://ssr.net.au/">https://ssr.net.au/</a></p>
Refurbished devices for students	Education	<p>For children with their name on a family concession card, Computerbank can supply low cost, refurbished computers and laptops. The Homeless Children's Brokerage Program can assist with the cost of these.</p> <p><a href="https://www.computerbank.org.au/about-us/our-computers/">https://www.computerbank.org.au/about-us/our-computers/</a></p>
Kids Get Active Vouchers	Supporting children to participate organised sport or recreation activities.	<p>For children 0-18, named on a Health Care Card or Concessions Card. These can be a payment or a reimbursement.</p> <p>For further information please see the link below;</p> <p><a href="https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/">https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/</a></p>
Education Conveyance Allowance	Travel costs to school	<p>This allowance, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, assists eligible students with the cost of travel to school. The allowance is available to eligible students attending government or non-government schools areas outside the immediate metro areas. Many outer eastern postcodes are eligible. It applies to travel by public transport, private bus and private car.</p> <p>The allowance is available to school aged students who live 4.8 km or more, by the shortest practicable route, from the nearest appropriate school and do not have access to the free school bus service.</p> <p>To apply Contact your school office for further details and for an application form or contact the Department of Education &amp; Training on 1800 060 970 or visit the eligibility map below;</p>



		<a href="https://www.edvos.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/safety/Conveyance%20Boundary%20Map.jpg">https://www.edvos.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/safety/Conveyance%20Boundary%20Map.jpg</a>
Family Violence Flexible Support Packages	Support Packages for those experiencing family violence in the last 12 months.	Family violence support packages are available for people who have experienced family violence in the last 12 months. A MARAM must be completed indicating a level of risk. Criteria apply. EDVOS holds this funding for the eastern region. Each eligible individual in the family is entitled to their own package. Please phone EDVOS for further information; on 9259 4200 for further information and application forms.
Escaping Family Violence Payment	Program is available for people 18+ who have recently experienced any form of intimate partner violence, including coercive control, have a changed living situation and are experiencing financial stress.	<a href="https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/services/family-services/family-violence-services/escaping-violence-payment/">https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/services/family-services/family-violence-services/escaping-violence-payment/</a>
(CEEP) Creating Connections Educational and Employment Pathways	Education, Employment and Training	For young people aged 15-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are supported by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to access education and employment options. Uniting Harrison holds this funding for the eastern region. <a href="https://www.unitingharrison.org.au/index.php/ceep">https://www.unitingharrison.org.au/index.php/ceep</a>
<b>Leaving care</b>		
DHHS Leaving Care Post Care Support Brokerage	Accommodation, education, training and employment , access	Leaving care brokerage is restricted to any young person/young adult aged under 21 years who was subject to a Custody or Guardianship to Secretary order on or after their



	<p>to health and community services, life skills education and connection to community</p>	<p>16<sup>th</sup> birthday and who is leaving, or has left care to live independently. This includes those young people subject to Custody or Guardianship to Secretary orders who left care prior to commencement of the Children, Youth and Family Act (CY&amp;FA) on 23 April 2007 and who are not yet 21 years of age.</p> <p>The community service organisation that provides post care support is responsible for the Leaving Care 'Better Futures' brokerage funds.</p> <p>For information about support for those leaving care;  <a href="https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/leaving-care">https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/leaving-care</a></p> <p><u>Service providers in Inner &amp; Outer Eastern region</u>  <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/better-futures">https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/better-futures</a></p>



<p>Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) in Victoria</p>	<p>TILA can be used for a range of items to help young people transition to independence. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support to enter accommodation</li> <li>- buying essential household items (appliances, whitegoods and furniture)</li> <li>- counselling</li> <li>- life skills programs</li> <li>- support to access jobs, education or training</li> <li>- one-off transport expenses, public transport passes.</li> </ul> <p>Use of TILA should support the young person's goals and aspirations as detailed in their transition/leaving care plan.</p>	<p><b>TILA Eligibility</b></p> <p>TILA is for young people aged 15 to 25 who have been in, or are currently in, out-of-home care. To be eligible, young people must have left out-of-home care after the age of 15 years (or be within twelve weeks of leaving care) and have last been in out-of-home care for a continuous period of at least 6 months. For further eligibility information please see the TILA page on the Department of Social Services website <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>How to apply</b></p> <p>Melbourne City Mission is managing the TILA application process across Victoria. To apply, support workers (e.g. case worker, leaving care worker) will need to work with the young person to fill out the application form attached and email it to: <a href="mailto:tila@mcm.org.au">tila@mcm.org.au</a>.</p> <p>Support workers will need to sign the case worker declaration on the application form to certify that the young person meets the eligibility criteria, and that the use of TILA aligns with the priorities in the young person's care or transition plan.</p> <p>For young people who do not have a case worker or a support worker - for example young people who have left care but do not have a leaving care support worker - Melbourne City Mission will assist the young person to apply for TILA. Young people are encouraged to call or email Melbourne City Mission on 1300 532 846 or <a href="mailto:tila@mcm.org.au">tila@mcm.org.au</a> .</p> <p><b>Questions and further information</b></p> <p>For further information about the application process in Victoria please contact Melbourne City Mission on the <b>Leaving Care Hotline: 1300 532 846</b>. Further information will also be available on the Melbourne City Mission website shortly.</p> <p>For information about eligibility and the national TILA policy please refer to the <a href="#">TILA page</a> on the Department of Social Services website.</p>
<p><b>Housing supports/Nils loans</b></p>		



Baby Equipment	Baby and Parenting needs	St Kilda Mums recycle nursery equipment including cots, prams and car seats, as well as clothes and other baby essentials. Applications to be made by Support Workers, not clients. <a href="https://www.stkildamums.org/">https://www.stkildamums.org/</a>
Child, Family and Parent Services		<a href="https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/services-support/local-services/vic-services">https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/services-support/local-services/vic-services</a> This is a link to MCHN Services, Parenting Support, Playgroup services and more.  The Babes Project runs a pretty great model of Perinatal support (that's from conception until bubs is 1 year old). We believe that all women should have access to the information, support and understanding needed to make great decisions about her life and that of her child. We are doing our best to make sure that happens. And the result is pretty spectacular as we empower a generation of strong mothers to raise great children. Works with vulnerable pregnant women, mothers and their babies <a href="https://www.thebabesproject.com.au/">https://www.thebabesproject.com.au/</a>
Maternal & Child Health Nursery Equipment Program	This supplies brand new nursery equipment for newborn babies where a safety risk has been identified.	Eligible families can obtain a brand new, standards compliant car seat, cot and mattress that remains their own property. <a href="https://www.each.com.au/service/maternal-and-child-health-nursery-equipment-program/">https://www.each.com.au/service/maternal-and-child-health-nursery-equipment-program/</a>
StepUP Loans	Household items and services	A StepUP loan is a low interest loan of between \$800 and \$3000 for individuals and families living on a low income. It is a non profit loan developed by National Australia Bank (NAB) with Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service and now offered by a range of community groups across Australia. Applicants must fit the loan criteria and can use the loans to purchase essential household items and services. The loan decision is made by NAB. The microfinance worker will support applicants through the application process.  <a href="http://stepuploan.org.au/">http://stepuploan.org.au/</a>



General NILS Scheme	Household items, medical procedures/health aids, one off education costs, vehicle expenses, moving costs	<p>NILS is a community-based program offering small loans up to \$1500 free of interest and charges to individuals and families on low and limited incomes. Loans are generally for the purchase of essential household items and can be paid off in affordable amounts.</p> <p><a href="http://nils.com.au/">http://nils.com.au/</a></p>
Department of Human Services Utility Relief Grant and non mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme	Household Utilities	<p>The Utility Relief Grant Scheme and the Non-Mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme provide assistance for domestic customers who are unable to pay their utility bills due to a temporary financial crisis.</p> <p>Assistance may be provided to low income households suffering a short term (within last 12 months) financial crisis who are unable to pay for a current utility account or LP gas account and who are at risk of disconnection, restriction of supply or non-supply of gas bottles.</p> <p>The Utility Relief Grant Scheme is also available to eligible customers who experience difficulties paying for other non-mains sources such as carted water, firewood (for households with no other form of heating)</p> <p><a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/utility-relief-grant-scheme">https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/utility-relief-grant-scheme</a></p> <p>Here is a link to the Victorian Concessions Guide<sup>3</sup> with all concessions Victorians may be eligible for; <a href="#">Victorian concessions - guide 21.22.pdf</a></p>
Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative	Attendant care, hire of equipment, sign/Auslan interpreting or transport costs.	<p>The Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative is a project that aims to assist women with a disability experiencing family violence. Women and their children may require immediate disability support to access a family violence crisis accommodation response while exploring longer term housing and support options or require immediate disability support to remain safe in their own home. Short-term funds can be provided for up to 12 weeks to a maximum of \$9,000 per person while the woman works with her Family Violence Worker to develop a longer term plan.</p> <p>Tel: 1800 783 783 (landline) or</p>





		1300 238 133 (mobile)  <a href="https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-and-family-violence-crisis-response">https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-and-family-violence-crisis-response</a>
Emergency Relief Providers	Food parcels, fuel vouchers, clothing, utilities, household items, furniture, medical expenses	Contact your local council or Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, Anglicare or Uniting Care
Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP)	Advocacy & financial support for private rental	<p>the Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP) which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist people who capable of sustaining private rental after an initial support period</li> <li>• Support households to sustain affordable and appropriate housing in the private rental market</li> <li>• Assist people who currently live in crisis, transitional or social housing to become independent in the private rental market.</li> </ul> <p>PRAP can assist people to establish affordable and appropriate private rental by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoring their rental history eg. TICA</li> <li>• Supporting them to transition between tenancies</li> <li>• Improving their capacity to maintain stable housing</li> <li>• Offering financial assistance, where needed, to establish a successful tenancy</li> </ul> <p>Contact Uniting Mt Waverley PRAP Program tel:0390513000</p>
<b>Medical</b>		
Victorian Eye Care Service	Eye care at a subsidised rate to pensioners and others on a low income.	<p>The Victorian Eye Care Service is funded by the Government of Victoria to provide eye care at low cost for pensioners and others on low incomes.</p> <p>Who is eligible? Permanent residents of Victoria who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold a Pensioner Concession Card in their own name, and their dependants under the age of eighteen years or</li> <li>• have held a Health Care Card in their own name for at least 6 months continuously, and their dependants under the age of eighteen years and</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold a Victorian pension card with the permanent residential address in country Victoria. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, you can enquire by telephone to the VES office 9349 7434 or otherwise complete the application form and the VES office will advise you.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.aco.org.au/eye-care-services/eye-care-in-melbourne/services-offered">http://www.aco.org.au/eye-care-services/eye-care-in-melbourne/services-offered</a></p>
Public Dental Services	Dental care	<p>The Dental Clinic provides basic emergency, general and denture services. Who is eligible to use the Dental Clinic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concession card holders and their dependants.</li> <li>• Any child under the age of 13 regardless of a health care card or pensioner concession card.</li> <li>• Any child currently receiving the Child Dental Benefit Schedule payment aged 2-17 years regardless of a health care card or pensioner card</li> <li>• Any child aged 13-17 who has, or is a dependant of a health care card or pensioner concession card holder.</li> <li>• Any adult 18 years and older who holds a health care card or pensioner concession card.</li> <li>• Children aged 0-13 who are not dependants of health care card holders will have a minimum fee of \$31 per course of care.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.dhsv.org.au/clinic-locations/community-dental-clinics">https://www.dhsv.org.au/clinic-locations/community-dental-clinics</a></p>
<b>Miscellaneous/ Bills</b>		
Telstra Bill assistance	Telstra vouchers	<p>The Telstra Bill Assistance Program is aimed at assisting people who are experiencing financial difficulty and are having a problem paying their Telstra bill. Participating community agencies are able to provide clients with a Telstra Bill Assistance Certificate of a fixed amount to pay towards their Telstra bill. Telstra funds the program and participating Community Agencies distribute the program on Telstra's behalf.</p> <p><b>How does an agency join the Telstra Bill Assistance Program?</b> To be eligible to join, agencies must:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directly receive Commonwealth and / or State emergency relief funding and/or provide material aid/ financial cash relief assistance as a normal part of their operation based on a careful assessment of client needs</li> <li>• be an incorporated not-for-profit body.</li> </ul> <p>To apply, contact the lead administrative Community Agency in your State. Refer to the List of State Contacts on the following website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.telstra.com.au/aboutus/community-environment/community-programs/access-for-everyone/community-agencies/">http://www.telstra.com.au/aboutus/community-environment/community-programs/access-for-everyone/community-agencies/</a></p>
Saver Plus program	Financial assistance and matched savings up to \$500.	<p>Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, with ANZ providing matched savings for participants.</p> <p>You may be eligible to join Saver Plus if you or your partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card;</li> <li>• have some regular income from work;</li> <li>• are at least 18 years old; and</li> <li>• are a parent or guardian of a child at school or are doing a vocational training course yourself.</li> </ul> <p>You can apply to join Saver Plus by contacting your local Saver Plus Worker in your region.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bsl.org.au/services/money-matters/saver-plus/">https://www.bsl.org.au/services/money-matters/saver-plus/</a></p> <p>Once you successfully complete the program, <b>ANZ matches your savings dollar-for-dollar</b>, up to \$500. This money can be used for education costs (either your children's or your own) such as computers, uniforms, books and sports equipment.</p>



Centrelink Crisis Payment		<p>Information on the Crisis payment is available at the link below or in person at Centrelink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/crisis-payment">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/crisis-payment</a></li> </ul> <p>Those eligible are victims of family violence, impacted on by a natural disaster, or have been released from prison.</p>
Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)	counselling, medical, safety-related and funeral expenses, lost earnings and other reasonable expenses to assist a victim of crime in their recovery	<p>The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) is established by legislation to provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime committed in Victoria. VOCAT assists victims to recover from a crime by providing financial assistance for expenses incurred, or reasonably likely to be incurred, as a direct result of the crime.</p> <p><a href="http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au/how-apply/lodging-application">http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au/how-apply/lodging-application</a></p>
Hospital Car Parking	Assistance for frequent public hospital attendances	<p>It is suggested speaking to the Social Work Department as soon as possible after the first visit. Usually substantial discounts on car parking costs are available. Usually rebates are not possible.</p>
Multi Purpose Taxi Program	Half price taxi fares	<p>The Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) makes transport more accessible for Victorians with a severe and permanent disability. MPTP gives members half price taxi fares, paying up to \$60 per trip. Some members have a yearly limit. The cards cost \$16.50 and are valid for six years.</p> <p><a href="https://cpv.vic.gov.au/passengers/mptp">https://cpv.vic.gov.au/passengers/mptp</a></p>
The Pet Medical Crisis Fund (PMCF)	Animal surgery for family pets	<p>The Pet Medical Crisis Fund (PMCF) has been created to help pensioners and disadvantaged pet owners who cannot afford surgery to keep their family pet alive.</p> <p><a href="http://www.petmedicalcrisisfund.com.au/index.shtml">http://www.petmedicalcrisisfund.com.au/index.shtml</a></p>