



EDUCATION FUNDING OPTIONS

This resource has been developed to inform schools and agencies about education related financial assistance available for low income families (January 2014)

GOVERNMENT FUNDING:

EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance)

What:

Provides financial assistance to low income families to support costs associated with the education of their children

How:

EMA applications are filled out by parents/guardians and given to their respective school. It is the responsibility of the school to then submit the application.

Eligibility:

Parents must hold a Centre link/Veterans affairs concession card to be eligible and have children 16yrs and under attending a government school.

Amount:

- \$200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- \$150 for parents of all other eligible primary schools students
- \$300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- \$250 for parents of all other eligible secondary student's up to the age of 16.

For more information:

www.education.vic.gov.au/principals/financial/ema/

Schoolkids Bonus

What:

Assists with educational costs and is automatically paid annually in January and July to eligible families.

How:

Eligibility will be determined automatically. Some families will need to advise that their child has started primary or secondary school to receive payment.

Eligibility:

Parents/Carers who get family Tax benefit Part A for a dependent child attending primary or secondary education.

Amount:

Families and students will receive up to:

- \$410 for each child in primary school (two instalments of \$205)
- \$820 for each child in secondary school (two instalments of \$410)

For more information:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus

GENERAL FUNDING:

State School Relief Committee (SSRC)

What:

Assistance in the form of clothing and footwear is available for disadvantaged students attending government schools.

How:

Applications must be submitted by the school Principal, Assistant principal or the Welfare Coordinator.

Eligibility:

Children and families who cannot access clothing and footwear due to circumstances like poverty, neglect, family violence and natural disasters.

Amount:

Varies depending on need

For more information:

Consult with Welfare staff and Principal at enrolled school
<http://www.ssr.net.au/>

Traveller's Aid: Pathways to Education Program

What:

Provides students travel passes for young people who are experiencing financial difficulties to enable them to travel to school/training/education and at risk of disengagement from education.

How:

Students need to call Traveller's Aid and have a discussion with the Emergency Relief Officer on 9670 2873.

Eligibility:

Students who attend secondary education including an alternative setting - community school and secondary education at a tertiary institution.

Amount:

Varies depending on cost of travel

For more information:

<http://www.travellersaid.org.au/our-service/pathways-education>

A Start in Life-Compass Program

What:

Provides financial assistance to cover the costs of educational essentials. Scholarships are also available for Indigenous students and talent specific funds (See website).

How: Application form online**Eligibility:**

- Australian citizens
- Engaged in full time education from Pre to a Tertiary qualification
- Under the age of 25 years;
- Receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy if attending an Independent secondary school or Tertiary setting. While being financially assisted by the Program, Tertiary students must meet their course requirements and achieve at least a pass in all subjects per semester Families must reveal extensive information about their financial situation.

Amount: Varies depending on age of child, varying from \$500-\$1000 per year

For your information:

<http://www.astartinlife.org.au/index.html> or (02) 9264 3017

OTHER SUPPORTS:

Peter Brock Foundation

What: Financial assistance to community groups and individuals who are experiencing hardships due to family breakdowns or disruption of family relationships and support.

How: Support can be accessed by organizations or individuals in need.

Amount: Individuals are assessed on a case to case basis.

For your information: www.peterbrockfoundation.com.au

Call: CEO Lesley Aourousseau 0468 915 054

Low Cost Eye care/Australian College of Optometry

What: Provides comprehensive eye examination, glasses and contact lenses at a low cost.

How: There are 5 clinics in Melbourne; appointment based.

Eligibility: For pension and health care card holders, ATSI community, full time students refugees and asylum seekers.

Amount: Primary care and specialised optometry services are available at a very low cost, prices start at \$34.50 for basic distance glasses.

For more information: Main clinic in Carlton on 9349 7400 or Local clinics are located at either Broadmeadows (8345 5414), or East Preston (8470 1199).

Also visit www.aco.org.au for details of other Melbourne clinics

Textbook Exchange

What: Australia's largest second hand textbook website i.e. for discount textbooks for students at school, TAFE and University.

How: Become a member by filling out the application form online to become a "Student VIP member"

Eligibility: Students can become members

Cost: Free to join

For more information: <http://www.textbookexchange.com.au/>

Sustainable School Shop

What: An online service for families or schools to trade second hand school items

How:

Parents can register online in order to browse, sell or purchase second hand school item including books, uniform etc

School's can register online to compliment or extend their second hand services

Eligibility:

Website is available for anyone to access

Note: User needs basic computer skills.

Amount:

Free to browse, but small cost to post and sell.

For your information: Call: 1300 683 337 or www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Sidney Myer fund-Education Program

What: Small grants up to \$10,000, for disadvantaged young people and young people from CALD backgrounds.

Eligibility: Private and non govt schools not eligible.

For your information: <http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/>

Max e Grants

What: The Max e Grants program provides small grants of up to \$5000 per grant to schools and pre-schools/long daycare centre/kindergartens. The program supports children aged 4-18 years.

Eligibility: This grants program only takes applications from schools.

Round one closes 24th march, round 2 closes 31st July 2014

For your information: <http://www.bmaxe.com.au/html/>

Complete Schools Fundraising Handbook

How to make the most money ever for your school, pre-school or kindergarten

Cost: \$36

<http://www.fundingcentre.com.au/book/book-schools-fundraising>

For more information regarding funding options contact your local School Focused Youth Service Coordinator

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