

Financial Support Services for Low income Families

If you are having difficulty meeting the costs associated with your child's schooling. Please refer to the following supports and agencies for assistance.

Commonwealth Government Support:

- Camps, sport and excursion fund (CSEF). This has replaced the previous EMA and goes directly to the school. This can only be used for school camps/trips, swimming and other school-organised sporting programs, Outdoor education programs and excursions/incursions.
- Family Tax Benefits A and B. This is a two-part payment to help with the cost of raising children. It is income tested. More information is available at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/family-tax-benefit-part-a-part-b>
- Centre Pay is a free, voluntary service for Centrelink customers to pay expenses as regular deductions from their Centrelink payments. Deductions can be started, changed or cancelled at any time to suit the family's circumstances. The types of expenses that can be paid using Centrepay include education fees and expenses, child care, private rent including community housing, telecommunications, electricity, gas and water. For more information visit: <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/centrepay>

Relevant Community Organisations:

- Community Information and Support Victoria – <http://www.cisvic.org.au>
- CRIS (Crisis Referral Information System) Online Directory – <http://cris.crisisservices.org.au/>
- ER Victoria (Victorian emergency relief)– www.ervictoria.com.au
- State School's Relief – applications must be processed by the school. Call Wellbeing Centre on ph: 8768 1000
- Saver Plus – <http://www.anz.com.au/personal/bank-accounts/help-select-account/concession-card-holders/saver-plus> (Saver plus is a matched savings and financial education program that provides an opportunity to have every dollar saved (up to \$500) matched with an additional dollar for the family's education-related expenses.
- The Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
- The Smith Family – <http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/what-we-do/our-work/at-school>
- Travellers Aid – <http://www.travellersaid.org.au/our-services/pathways-education>
- Financial Assistance for Families Website - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/families.aspx>
- Casey North Community Information and Support Services – ph.9705 6699 (assists with food, prescriptions, some school supplies, education assistance program, no interest loan scheme)

If you need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call on of our Wellbeing staff on ph. 8768 1000