

# VAEI Regional Back to School Information Pack 2024

## Reminder

### Schools fees are voluntary for state schools

Schools provide students with free curriculum and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that they need for their regular classes.

The school may invite you to:

- Make a voluntary money contribution to support the school.
- purchase extra-curricular items and activities
- purchase educational items to own.

You are not required to make payments or voluntary financial contributions to your school. Schools cannot refuse your child school if you do not contribute.

### Start at your school

Ask your school about their financial help for families policies.

You can reach out to principal, assistant principal, KESO or Koorie support worker, wellbeing coordinator, or a trusted teacher.

 1800 338 663

 enquiries@education.vic.gov.au

### Aboriginal Co-ops and Organisations.

Reach out to your local Aboriginal Co-op or Organisation. They may be able to provide assistance on a case-by-case basis according to the needs of your family and their available resources.

## State-wide support

### State Schools Relief.

A Start in Life' is available for students at all levels of learning from Prep to completion of Tertiary studies.

 03 8769 8400

 contact@ssr.net.au

 <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>

### A Start in Life

Available for students at all levels of learning from Prep to completion of Tertiary studies.

 (02) 9264 3017

 SFMT@astartinlife.org.au

 <https://www.astartinlife.org.au/>

### Opening the doors foundation

provides grants for school-related expenses such as uniforms, books, school camps, IT equipment, and stationary (school fees and tutoring excluded).

 0401 487 414

 enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au

 <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>

### Les twentyman foundation's back to school program

Provides educational resources for students in state, catholic and independent schools.

 03 9689 4800

 info@ltfoundation.com.au

 <https://ltfoundation.com.au/our-services/back-to-school/>

### The Smith Family Learning for Life

providing students with financial support, guidance from coordinators, and access to extracurricular programs

Contact your local Learning for Life office.

## South-East Victoria

### Emergency Relief

Through VACCA Dandenong.

☎ 9108 3500

### Cranbourne Community Information & Support

Provide financial support through their Education Assistance Program.

Only for families located in Hampton Park, Cranbourne, Blind Bight, Cannons Creek, Clyde, Pearcedale, Tooradin, Warneet, Lyndhurst, and Lynbrook. Health care card required.

🌐 <https://www.cranbourneiss.org.au/service-s-programs/educ-assist-program.html>

### Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

Community benefit fund. Only for Gunai Kurnai people.

🌐 <https://gunaikurnai.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-Benefit-Fund-Policy-v4.pdf>

### Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative (GEGAC)

Can offer limited supports for school uniform, and school supplies, but to utilise funds you must complete and intake and assessment and meet the criteria and be eligible for the programs.

## Western Metropolitan

### VACSAL - BWAYS Aboriginal Early School Leavers 'Back to School' Program.

They offer the following support:

- school textbooks ~ referrals to Les Twentyman "Back to School" program
- negotiate with schools regarding payment plans for school fees.
- offer case management to those who wish to receive further support for young people who are at risk of disengagement at school

☎ 03 9484 5310

## Northern Metropolitan

### Njernda

Offering \$250 per child. Parents can pick up application form at Njernda's youth club.

### Contact Nicole Cooper

☎ 0499 820 320

✉ [nicolec@njernda.com.au](mailto:nicolec@njernda.com.au)

### Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS)

Can help existing and current serviced clients/families.

### Mildura office

☎ (03) 5018 4100

### Swanhill office

☎ (03) 5032 8600

### Kerang office

☎ (03) 5412 6004

### VACSAL - BWAYS Aboriginal Early School Leavers 'Back to School' Program.

Program supports students from Prep - Year 12 in the Northern & Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. The program is offered from 1st December-1st February each year.

☎ 03 9484 5310

## North-East Victoria

### Ganbina

Can help kids that are already part of the program. Our program is open to all young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, from the age of six to 25 years old. You can join at any time, and it's free.

They offer the following support:

- Help cover school or work related expenses.

☎ 03 5821 7333

✉ [info@ganbina.com.au](mailto:info@ganbina.com.au)