

# Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG) Community Newsletter: 2017/2018

## SCHOOL READY EDITION

### Message from the LAECG Chair

Dear Community Member,

In preparation for 2018 we have a 'School Ready Edition' Newsletter that we hope will assist you and your children in preparation for their education in 2018.

Whether it's Early Years, Primary School, Secondary School or Higher Education, There are numerous supports available for families to lighten the burden of financial and academic necessities our children need.

On behalf of your LAECG, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Yours,

Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG)

## Boorai's!

### Free 3 and 4 year old kindergarten!

All Koorie kids who turn 3 or 4 years old by 30 April, can attend kindergarten for 15 hours per week for free. Kindergarten will help your child:

- Build their sense of identity
- Grow their confidence in learning and trying new things
- Strengthen their physical, social and emotional wellbeing

To enrol your child, speak to your local council or your local Koorie Engagement Coordinator at your regional DET office on 03 5127 0400.

## VAEAI AND VIA: WORKING TOGETHER

Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) & Victorian Inclusion Agency Consortium (VIA)

### *What is the ISP?*

The Inclusion Support Programme (ISP) provides support to federally funded education and care services to build their capacity and capability to include all children aged 0 -12 years in their services.

As part of this the ISP supports services to include:

- Children with a disability or undergoing assessment
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Children from a refugee or humanitarian background
- Children with serious medical condition/s
- Children presenting with language and speech delays
- Children presenting with disruptive behaviour

In Victoria, these activities are provided by the Victorian Inclusion Agency (VIA).

### *VAEAI's Role*

VAEAI mentors and supports the VIA Inclusion Professionals to build their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture and to understand how universal education and care services can create a strong sense of belonging for Koorie families and children. VAEAI also works alongside the Inclusion Professionals to support the Multifunctional Aboriginal Childcare Services (MACS) and other Aboriginal owned and managed education and care services.

# Koorie Kids in Primary & Secondary School

## State Schools Relief



### Graphing Calculators

State Schools' Relief now provide graphing calculators for senior students completing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEMs) subjects.

To assist students to continue their education, State Schools' Relief now provide a subsidy to the school of up to \$200 for each student requiring a graphing calculator. This opportunity is available to any student based on the normal assessment of student need conducted in your school.

Applications can be made now by your welfare team through our online application portal [www.ssr.net.au/schools](http://www.ssr.net.au/schools)

### Work Boots



State Schools' Relief now provide leather safety work boots to student's enrolled in VET in Schools (VETis) programs.

This opportunity is available to any student based on the normal assessment of student need conducted in your school. Boots are provided directly from State Schools' Relief at no cost to students, parents or schools. Boots are made to Australian Standard (AS2210.3 class 1), comprising of a composite safety toe and a sole resistant to most oils, acids and chemicals. Available in black or camel. Applications can be made now by your welfare team through our online application

### Clk2Sell

Clk2Sell is an online app designed give all children access to low cost school uniforms by providing a free marketplace for parents to sell unwanted second-hand clothes, books and musical instruments. If you have any questions, please call them directly on 03 9028 2165 or email your enquiry to [info@clk2sell.com](mailto:info@clk2sell.com)

Ready to give it a go? Download the clk2sell app now



## Need help?

If you are struggling financially to provide for your Childs government education, make an appointment with the school principal or assistant principal/welfare coordinator to discuss your situation.

The only criteria is that the child must be enrolled in a Victorian Government school!

## CSEF

The Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid concession card, temporary foster parents and kinship carers with formalised placements, are able to apply.

\$125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students, and \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students.

Payments go directly to the school and are tied to the student.

Victorian Government Year 7 and Prep students (in 2017) who are CSEF recipients are also automatically eligible for a uniform pack, through the State Schools Relief. Students can also receive free or discounted: school shoes; textbooks; stationery; or software. Temporary foster parents, and kinship carers with formal arrangements in place can apply for this fund, regardless of concession status under 'Special Consideration'.

For more info speak with your school, and contact your KESO.

Please note, applications must be submitted at the start of the year.

# TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

## Victorian Student Pass

Primary and secondary students studying full time and attending an approved school listed in the approved list of schools can apply for a Victorian Student Pass, which is loaded onto a concession myki, and lasts half a year.

Half yearly passes are valid:

28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 31<sup>st</sup> July, and

1<sup>st</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

For more information contact PTV on 1800 800 007.

## Victorian Public Transport Concession Card

Primary and secondary students studying full time and attending an approved school listed in the approved list of schools can apply for a public transport concession card. Full time VCE and VCAL students studying at TAFE can also apply. Concession cards must be carried with the concession myki.

Students aged 16 and under can travel on concession fares without a concession card.

## Tutoring

Funding is provided directly to Victorian state schools for tuition for eligible Koorie students. Due to recent budget changes, tutorial assistance is now only available to Koorie students in Prep to year 3.

For more information contact your closest Koorie Education Coordinator Officer or email [wannik.tutorial@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wannik.tutorial@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## School Bus Program

The School Bus Program is an extensive school bus network that provides travel at no cost to students attending government and non-government schools and living in rural and regional Victoria, living at least 4.8km from their closest government/non-government school. There are free bus services for children with special needs who attend special and development schools.

For more info see: <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/getting-around/school-buses/school-bus-program/>

# SCHOLARSHIPS

[Northcote Trust Scholarship](#) is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have recently completed a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and who are enrolled to commence a suitable degree course of study at a Victorian university. The scholarship is in the form of a \$4,000 grant, payable in each year of satisfactory progress in the selected course, for a maximum of four years.

[The Marrung Education Scholarships](#) are for students who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, are completing Year 10 at a Victorian government school and are planning on completing Year 11 and 12 at a Victorian government school. If you are in year 10 this year you will be eligible to apply for the 2019 scholarship. For more information, please contact Frank Gaylard, on 9637 3544.

[Opening the Doors Foundation](#) provides scholarships for students in independent schools, and pays for things such as for school uniforms, book lists, levies, VET & VCAL subjects and extra curricular activities. For more information Phone 03 9443

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH VAEA!

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

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OR CALL 03 9481 0800.

# Higher Education

*Starting TAFE and need some support?*

Tafe's, polytechnics and dual sector universities have dedicated staff – koorie liaison officers – employed specifically to assist koorie students to choose and complete their courses.

Koorie liaison officers (klos) operate within most victorian tafes, polytechnics and dual sector universities and are available to assist koorie students throughout their studies.

*Attending Uni? Visit your INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION UNIT!*

These units provide support to indigenous students, further indigenous academic studies, create a network of indigenous students and academics and provide an indigenous presence on university campuses.

*Here are top 10 TIPS for first timers at Uni!*

1. It isn't like high school!
2. Use your free time wisely! Balance your studies, social life and work commitments
3. Get involved in 'O Week' and check out campus events & bulletin boards!
4. Make new friends
5. Keep to a Budget and Take advantage of freebies!
6. Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help
7. Use apps to stay on track
8. Take some time to learn where everything is
9. KEEP IN CONTACT! (always keep in contact with your top preference TAFE or Uni Indigenous support unit before and after offers are made as there are alternative pathway programs students may be legible to take that aren't offered to you through VTAC)
10. Make the most of it!

For further information on supports available, please contact VAEAI on 94810800

## FINANCING YOUR STUDIES

HECS, FEE-HELP, CSP WHATS THE DIFFERENCE?

### CSP

There are two types of places at university, subsidized commonwealth supported places (CSP's) and fee paying places. The total cost of your studies are split into two parts. The Australian Government pay one part (the subsidy) and you pay the other. Student contributions that you will be charged each study period are set by the university within ranges set by the government.

#### THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

##### STEP 1



If you are enrolled in a CSP, the cost of your study is split into two parts—the Government pays one part and you pay the other part.

##### STEP 2



The 'student contribution' is the part that you pay. There are three payment options depending on your eligibility. You MUST organise to pay your student contributions on or before the census date—otherwise your CSP enrolment will be cancelled.

How will you pay?

2A



I am NOT eligible to get a HECS-HELP loan. I will pay my student contributions upfront on or before the census date.

2B



While I am eligible for a HECS-HELP loan, I want to pay some/all of my student contributions upfront on or before the census date.

2C



I am eligible for a HECS-HELP loan and will get a loan to pay my student contributions on or before the census date.

Make sure you meet the tax file number requirements. **You will incur a debt.**

<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/HelpfulResources/Documents/2017/HECS-HELP%20Brochure%20ACC01.pdf>

### HELP & HECS

Fee-Help is a legal loan scheme from the government for fee paying students which are not subsidized. The limit for a FEE-HELP loan is \$100,879 (for most students). Once you reach your limit you can no longer use FEE-HELP. Once your income is over \$54,869 you must make a compulsory repayment through the tax system.

For further information, please speak to your KLO or call study assist on 1800 020 108

# CUT OUT AND KEEP...



## IMPORTANT DATES!

### 2018 SCHOOL TERM (Government Schools)

Term 1:	29 January to 29 March
Term 2:	16 April to 29 June
Term 3:	16 July to 21 September
Term 4:	8 October to 21 December*

\*Senior Years may have different finishing dates in term 4.

### VICTORIAN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2018

Australia Day:	26 <sup>th</sup> January
Labour Day:	12 <sup>th</sup> March
Good Friday:	30 <sup>th</sup> March
Saturday before Easter Sunday - Saturday, 31 March 2018	
Easter Sunday:	1 <sup>st</sup> April
Easter Monday:	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
ANZAC Day:	25 <sup>th</sup> April
Queen's Birthday:	11 <sup>th</sup> June
AFL Grand Final Holiday:	28 <sup>th</sup> September
Melbourne Cup*:	6 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Day:	25 <sup>th</sup> December
Boxing Day:	26 <sup>th</sup> December

## FREE 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN!

**All Koorie kids who turn 3 or 4 years old by 30 April, can attend kindergarten for 15 hours per week for free.**

## Assistance for children and young people in out-of-home-care and in school – LOOKOUT Koorie Cultural Advisors (one per region):

North West: **Jasmine Wright**

North East: **Glynis Vickery**

South West: **Nicole Foy**

South East: **Kelly Viney**

For more info visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/lookout.aspx?Redirect=1>.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH VAEAI!

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

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OR CALL 03 9481 0800.

## Need to contact the Department of Education and Training's Koorie Education Coordinators or Regional Office?

### NORTH WEST

**Bendigo** 03 5440 3111

**Coburg** 03 9488 9488

### SOUTH WEST

**Footscray** 03 8397 0300

**Geelong** 03 5225 1000

**Ballarat** 03 5337 8444

**Horsham** 03 5310 5300

**Warrnambool** 1300 333 232

### NORTH EAST

**Benalla** 03 8392 9500

**Glen Waverley** 03 8392 9300

### SOUTH EAST

**Dandenong** 03 8765 5600

**Moe** 03 5127 0400

## GET A PAGE IN THE KOORIE YEAR 12 YEARBOOK!

All Koorie students graduating from Year 12 in 2017 are invited to create your own page in the Yearbook please complete a registration form, available: <http://www.vaeai.org.au> (under 'Latest News').

Please don't forget to include a photo of yourself that is clearly labelled with your name. For further information please contact VAEAI's Schools Project Officer, Anjee-lee Bamblett, on 9481 0800 or [anjee@vaeai.org.au](mailto:anjee@vaeai.org.au).

Submit your page before the end of January 2018.

## School funding assistance including school uniforms and textbooks

Opening the Doors Foundation (students in independent schools) applications close 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018: <http://www.openingthedoors.org.au/aboriginal-education-scholarships/>.

Speak to your child's principal, deputy principal or welfare coordinator to get assistance from **State Schools Relief** (students in Victorian government schools).