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# Message from Ljiljanna Ravlich

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Dear Parents and Guardians

I know that putting children through school can place a financial burden on families.

This booklet provides information on allowances and concessions which may help ease the financial stress.

Inside you will find details on allowances, discounts and concessions as well as information on text books, computers and term dates.

There are book and computer resources which, as well as saving money, are more environmentally friendly as they reuse existing items.

Please contact my office on 9275 7000 for any further information.

I wish parents, guardians and students all the best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

**Ljiljanna Ravlich MLC**  
**MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN REGION**

January 2012

Disclaimer:

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# Contributions and Charges in Public Schools

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## Contributions

*Parent contributions go towards the cost of certain materials, services and facilities directly used or consumed by the students.*

Schools can request a contribution of up to \$60 per student per year, in Years K to 7 and up to \$235 per student per year, in Years 8 to 10.

The contributions collected from parents assist with the cost of materials, services and facilities directly used by students, including the hire of textbooks.

The School Council approves the level of contributions and they are detailed on the school contributions and charges list.

This contribution is a voluntary payment. It is expected that those who can afford to, will make the contribution.

Schools offer a range of payment options to assist any parents who may find it difficult to pay up-front. Please discuss these options with the principal.



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# Contributions and Charges in Public Schools

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## Charges

*Where students elect to participate in extra cost optional components, compulsory charges will apply.*

Charges apply to extra cost options in Years K to 10 and all courses in Years 11 and 12.

Extra cost options are optional extras that students can select. For example non-compulsory units such as Outdoor Education.

They also represent specific activities, services or facilities that schools offer for students to use or take part in eg camp, the school yearbook and school social activities. Students can opt to take part in these activities or use the services or facilities.

The School Council approves the level of charges and payment is compulsory. Schools offer a range of payment options which you can discuss with the principal.

## Other Costs

### Personal Items

These are personal items that students need to own such as pens, files, notebooks and a calculator. The list is detailed and provided to parents with the school contributions and charges list. These items can be purchased from any retail supplier. The School Council approves this list.

### Other Services

These are services or facilities which students can choose to use. Schools make provision for these on a cost recovery basis. Examples include the provision of photocopying and printing for computer-generated assignments and internet downloads over and above that provided as part of course allocations.

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# Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

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## Secondary Assistance Scheme

This scheme is available for high school students, including Year 11 and 12's, whose parents hold a Centrelink Family Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

The allowance includes:

- \$115 Clothing Allowance paid directly to the parent/guardian.
- \$235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school.

Application forms can be completed at the school.

## Tax Deductions for Education Expenses

*Claim your back to school expenses on your next tax return.*

If you are eligible, you can claim a refund in your 2011 individual tax return, or for those not required to lodge an income tax return, through a stand alone claim form.

Examples of eligible items include stationery, computer equipment and software, home internet connections, textbooks and trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

School-approved uniforms purchased from 1 July 2011 are now eligible.

For the period of 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 the maximum you can claim is 50 per cent of eligible expenses up to:

- \$818 for each eligible child in primary school (a refund of up to \$409); and
- \$1,636 for each eligible child in secondary school (a refund of up to \$818)

You should keep your receipts to help with your claim.

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# Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

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## Assistance for Isolated Children

Primary or secondary students who cannot go to an appropriate state school because of geographical isolation, disability or special health need, may be eligible to receive Assistance for Isolated Children.

To find out the criteria for this allowance please contact Centrelink on 13 23 18.

## Boarding Away From Home Allowance

Parents and guardians who receive the Assistance for Isolated Children allowance or the Second Home allowance are eligible for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance.

The allowance is for \$2,050 per annum and payment is pro-rata if the student boards less than a full year. Students must board for a minimum of one month a year. Payments will be made in Term 4.

Application forms are automatically sent from Centrelink to eligible parents and guardians.

## Agricultural Colleges Boarding Away From Home Allowance

This allowance is available for students who are boarding at an agricultural college and do not receive Assistance for Isolated Children's Allowance or Youth Allowance at the 'Away from Home' rate.

The special subsidy is paid direct to the agricultural college towards students' boarding costs.

Applications for the subsidy need to be made through the agricultural college where the student is boarding.

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# Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

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## 50 cent Public Transport Fares



Primary and high school students receive the 50 cent fare by using their Student SmartRider, which must be presented as proof of concession entitlement on all Transperth, Transwa and regional town bus services.

You may have already received a free SmartRider from your school. If you are at a non-participating school you may need to apply for the SmartRider card. Some schools may charge a small fee for the card if it has been personalised for school use.



Primary school students need to have their application authorised by their school administration and the form signed by the student's parent or guardian. Initial SmartRider cards are issued to primary school students free of charge, but a fee of \$5 will apply for replacement cards.



High school students at participating schools are automatically issued with SmartRiders from the school. If you haven't received one, you should contact your school administration.

High school students at a non-participating school need to complete an Application for Student SmartRider and have it authorised by your school or college. These cards will incur a fee of \$5.



For further information on Student SmartRider cards, please contact Transperth on 13 62 13 or visit [www.transperth.wa.gov.au](http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au)



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# Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

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## Mobility Allowance

A mobility allowance is available through Centrelink for students with disabilities aged 16 years and over who cannot use public transport without substantial assistance, and need to travel to and from their home looking for work, doing work or training. For further information, please contact Centrelink on 13 24 90.

## Youth Allowance

This is available to eligible students aged over 16. Parents or guardians must complete the application form unless the student is classed by Centrelink as a homeless or independent youth.

For further information please contact Centrelink on 13 24 90.

## Abstudy

This is a fortnightly living allowance to help with the costs associated with studying or training. The allowance is available to Indigenous students aged over 14 years enrolled at and attending primary school, secondary school, TAFE, university or undertaking a full-time Australian apprenticeship.

For further information please contact Centrelink on 13 23 17.

## Taxi User Subsidy Scheme

The Taxi Users' Subsidy Scheme provides people who have a severe disability that prevents them from using a conventional public transport bus service with a 50% subsidy, up to a maximum of \$25 for each single trip or people who use a wheelchair or scooter may be entitled to a 75% subsidy, up to a maximum of \$35 for each single trip.

For further information please contact the Department of Transport on 1300 660 147



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# Text Books

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The best way to save money on text books is to buy second hand books.

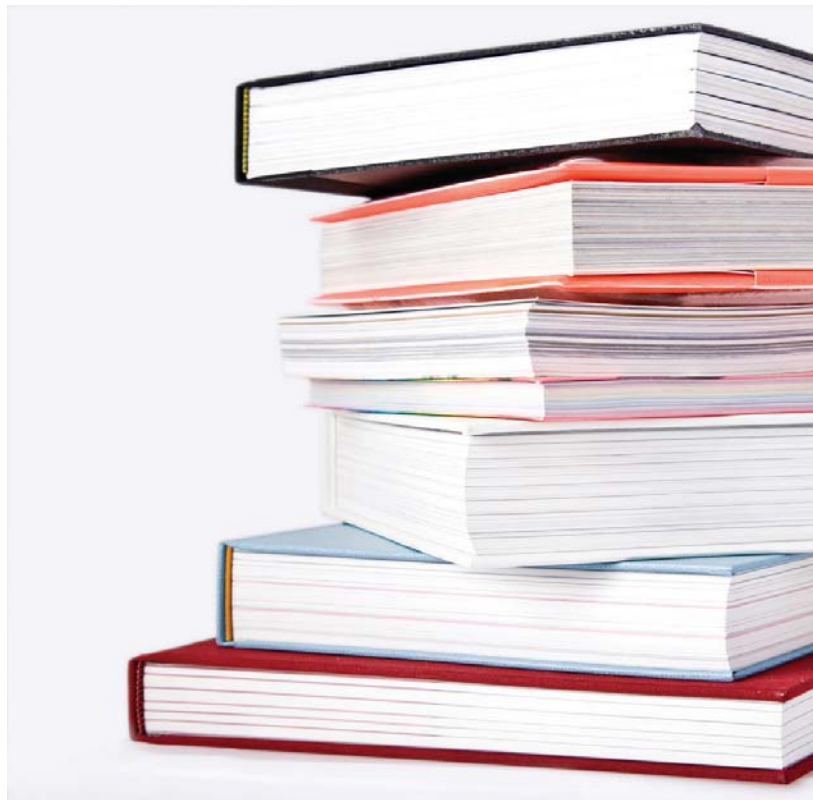
School notice-boards and newsletters are good sources to find second hand text books. Some schools have their own second hand book shops.

## Online Text Book Exchange:

<http://www.textbookexchange.com.au>

Australia's largest web site for second hand text books. It is free for students to join and there is no commission on any books bought or sold from this website.

Students can make money selling their old text books online and they can buy current textbooks from this web site at discounted prices.



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# Keeping Your School Informed

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## Emergency Contact Numbers

Ensure you update your children's school with your current work and home phone numbers and let them know of any changes to your emergency contact numbers.

## Medical Information

It is important to let your children's school know of any relevant medical information such as allergies, diabetes, asthma etc.

## Custody and Access

Custodial parents are expected to provide the principal with information about custody and access. It is important to keep the school up-to-date with this information.



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# Computers and Internet Access

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## Libraries



Public libraries have free access to online encyclopedia resources, which anyone can access provided they are a member of their local library. Printing material from the internet may incur a small fee to cover the paper and printing costs. Most public libraries provide free access to the internet and use of their computers.

You can join your local public library for free in the area in which you live, work or go to school. All you will be required to do is show identification and proof of your current address. If you are under 18 years of age your parent or legal guardian may need to be present when you join.

For your nearest public library, please contact your local government.

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## Green PCs

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*If you are buying a new computer, consider donating your old computer to Green PC. They will ensure that your old computer is given to a family who might not otherwise be able to afford one.*

Home computers can help students by providing access to internet research and improving the presentation of school assignments - but they can be expensive.

Green PCs are recycled personal computers, which have been upgraded into usable internet ready computers. To qualify for a Green PC computer you must hold a current Centrelink Health Care Card or be able to verify low income status in some other way.

You can find out more about Green PCs at [www.greenpc.com.au](http://www.greenpc.com.au) or by calling 1300 306 645.



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## Term Dates 2012

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- Term 1**      Wednesday 1 February - Thursday 5 April
- Term 2**      Thursday 26 April - Friday 6 July
- Term 3**      Tuesday 24 July - Friday 28 September
- Term 4**      Tuesday 16 October - Tuesday 18 December

