



**STATE
SCHOOLS'
RELIEF**

Making a difference
in the lives of
Victorian students

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 94 Years of Service

SSR



State Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation which supports Victorian government school students from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve participation and engagement with education by providing uniforms and other essential educational resources.

SSR aims to reduce the impact of financial disadvantage by addressing some of the barriers that prevent equitable engagement with education.

We work side by side with all Victorian government primary, secondary, specialist and language schools to ensure that any students facing hardship have the necessary items that they require for school.

Our practical support ensures that students can attend school with a greater sense of belonging and improved self-esteem, which in turn assists in improved engagement and educational outcomes. In the past year, 1344 schools accessed our assistance – that's 85% of all Victorian government schools.

Our Values



Opportunity

Supporting equal life chances and access to opportunity for all young people.

Dignity

Making sure that every young person is able to participate with the same pride and dignity as their peers.

Belonging

Fostering a sense of participation, inclusion and belonging to the school community.

Our History

State Schools' Relief was founded in June 1930 during the Great Depression by Anton Vroland, a Head Teacher from Elsternwick State School. Anton organised an initial meeting with fellow teachers and principals who were concerned about the students living in the barges along the Yarra and huts around the Dudley Flat tip. At the conclusion of this meeting, the State Schools' Relief Committee was formed to undertake any relief possible for Victorian students.

More than 90 years on, SSR continues its mission of supporting of Victorian state school students by removing barriers to education. Our anonymous assistance ensures that those students receiving help can do so with dignity.

The importance of our work ensures that each young person feels included and valued. It provides every student, regardless of their circumstances, with the opportunity to participate fully in their schooling, without any barriers. When young people feel that they belong, they thrive.

Life Members

The following life members have all contributed significantly and worked tirelessly to advance the mission and vision of State Schools' Relief.

Sir William Fry, Arthur Lewis, Ian McArthur, Stuart Chambers, George Moody, Charles Roach, Colin Dawson, Ron Cooper, Ray Addicoat, Frank Corr, Ralph Francione, Bruce Spratling, Alan Pinkerton and David Schmidt.

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Chair's Report

In its 94-year history, State Schools' Relief has never faced such unprecedented demand for its services. Over 261,000 uniform items, footwear, and essential educational supplies were provided to Victorian Government school students this year. A total of 94,165 applications for support were received, 88,000 of these being for items supplied through the Affordable Schools Uniform Program which ensures that no child is deprived of educational opportunities due to financial hardship.

The Glasses for Kids Program completed its initial phase, screening 17,000 students across 340 Victorian primary schools and distributing 3,800 pairs of glasses to those with vision impairments who might otherwise have remained undiagnosed. Remarkably, one in five students tested required glasses. For these students, glasses offer the gift of clear vision, reduce the risk of long-term eye damage, and enhance their ability to engage fully in their education.

According to the Impact Report developed this year by Social Ventures Australia, these flagship programs notably increase students' confidence and self-esteem, improve their engagement and attitude towards learning, boost their attendance, and enhance their academic performance.

Beyond these programs, we also provided 26,397 travel passes on behalf of the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, ensuring that students facing financial barriers can travel to school. Additionally, we distributed 519 iPads free of charge to non-verbal students, enhancing their learning, communication abilities, and social skills and 1,409 graphing calculators for senior students completing STEM subjects.

Our own brand initiative, Student's Choice, continues to gain traction among schools aiming to reduce costs for families and alleviate cost-of-living pressures. The Student's Choice brand is now available in 51 schools and in our new, purpose-built retail space in Dandenong South. This social enterprise offers affordable school uniform options and workwear for VCE vocational major students at below-retail prices, while generating crucial funds to support our welfare programs.

Student's Choice will also play a key role in the implementation of the upcoming Victorian Government's School Saving Bonus, providing plain uniform options for every child at government schools and eligible concession card holders at non-government schools.

This year marked the inaugural meeting of our Stakeholders Group, which includes organisations and individuals dedicated to supporting Victorian state school families and students facing hardship. The group aims to foster idea exchange, explore potential partnerships, and develop collaborative strategies to enhance the collective impact of support agencies.

Recognising that long-term success relies on our ability to continue to adapt and streamline operations, we have taken significant steps to improve efficiency. We have enhanced our voucher redemption rate by eliminating parents' gap payments and automating voucher processes. The introduction of Shopify point-of-sale technology has facilitated easier online access to our services, and we have expanded our warehouse capacity to meet increased demand.

This year we welcomed two new Board members, Zac Martin and Julie Evans and bid a heartfelt farewell to Christine Stewart, Esther Wood, Tony Ross, Maria Shearn, and Sean Collier. Our deepest gratitude goes to these departing members for their invaluable leadership, guidance, and advocacy.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support from our key stakeholder, the Victorian Government, through the Victorian Department of Education. We are profoundly grateful for the renewal and significant increase in our funding contract for the Affordable School Uniforms and Glasses for Kids programs, ensuring the continuation of our mission for the next four years.

We also wish to acknowledge the increase in donations from schools this year, reflecting their tremendous support for our mission and the tangible impact we have on their students. Our sincere thanks goes to individual donors, partner organisations, and philanthropic foundations; Bank First, ASCA, Andrews Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation, Women of the University Fund, the William Angliss Charitable Fund, Gandel Philanthropy, Perpetual, ANZUK, Holding Redlich and the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.

A special thank you to our dedicated team at State Schools' Relief, and to CEO Sue Karzis, whose leadership and advocacy have been instrumental to our success.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to all board members for their dedication to State Schools' Relief's mission. Their efforts ensure that we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. I would like to particularly recognise the contributions of our committee chairs: Barry Smith (Governance and Remuneration), Julie Evans (Audit, Risk and Finance) and Martina Owen (Service Delivery).

State Schools' Relief is committed to breaking the link between disadvantage and learning outcomes. In these challenging times of economic hardship, our work not only transforms individual lives but also strengthens the entire educational community, promoting equity and inclusivity across Victoria's schools.

Susan Mann

Chair



“

State Schools' Relief is committed to breaking the link between disadvantage and learning outcomes. In these challenging times of economic hardship, our work not only transforms individual lives but also strengthens the entire educational community, promoting equity and inclusivity across Victoria's schools.

”





Our Impact

Empowering Students, Strengthening Schools

State Schools' Relief is dedicated to helping Victorian government school students overcome financial barriers by providing essential items that foster full participation in school life. Through impactful programs like **Affordable School Uniforms** and **Glasses for Kids**, alongside **iPad** and **Travel Passes** initiatives, the organisation ensures that students have what they need to succeed academically and socially. Since 2016/17, State Schools' Relief has responded to over 530,000 requests, distributing more than 1.91 million essential items and saving families over \$54 million in total.

A Smarter Way to Support Students & Save

By offering goods at wholesale prices, State Schools' Relief saves the Victorian government considerable costs compared to cash support alternatives, helping families access essentials at a fraction of the usual price. This unique approach stretches government funds further and directs critical resources where they're needed most.

The Affordable School Uniforms Program: Leveling the Playing Field

A Smarter Way to Support Students and Save

The Affordable School Uniforms Program (ASU) provides disadvantaged students with essential clothing, like uniforms, shoes, and even learning tools like stationery and graphing calculators. If a specific item isn't available, the program supplies vouchers instead, ensuring no student is left without what they need. This vital program now serves approximately 85% of Victorian government schools.

Research consistently shows that having appropriate clothing boosts students' self-esteem, social integration, and academic engagement. The ASU program, by meeting these basic needs, allows students to focus on learning and social connections, rather than on worries about appearance or fitting in.



Lasting Impacts on Schools, Families, and Students

The ASU program has delivered significant positive outcomes for schools and families. In the 2023-24 period, the program supplied over 260,000 essential items, alleviating financial stress for families while empowering students with a sense of belonging and confidence. Teachers report that students show greater engagement in class and that stronger relationships form between parents, caregivers, and educators, contributing to a positive school environment.

2023/24 Impact at a Glance

94,000+ Students Supported:

Thousands of students gained the essentials they need to thrive in school.

1,344 Schools Served:

Reaching students and teachers across the state.

\$7.7 Million in Family Savings:

Financial relief for families dealing with economic challenges.

\$54 Million in Total Impact Since 2016:

A cumulative effect that benefits students, families, and schools.

260,000+

essential items supplied to families over the 2023-24 period

85%

of Victorian government schools now participates in the SSR Affordable School Uniforms Program (ASU)

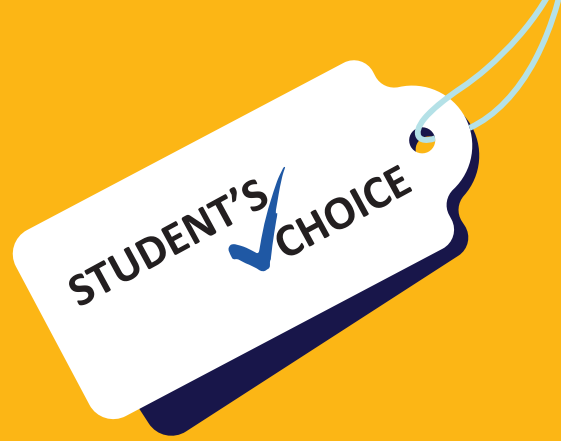


Every Item Counts

Each uniform, pair of shoes, and educational tool provided contributes to a broader goal: **enabling every student to start their day feeling prepared and confident**. State Schools' Relief isn't just about meeting material needs—it's about building a culture of support and equality in Victorian schools, one item at a time.



Student's Choice



Social Impact of Student's Choice: Enhancing Educational Equity

In 2015, State Schools' Relief (SSR) took a significant step towards promoting social equity by establishing Student's Choice, a social enterprise designed to bridge the gap between affordability and access to essential school items. This initiative directly aligns with SSR's long-standing mission of eliminating barriers to education for Victorian state school students, a mission that has spanned over 90 years.

Purpose & Mission

Student's Choice was founded not just as a commercial venture, but as a socially driven enterprise with a dual purpose: to provide affordable, high-quality school uniforms and footwear while using any surplus to further SSR's charitable mission.

Empowering Students & Communities

This initiative goes beyond the mere provision of uniforms. By offering accessible pricing and quality products, Student's Choice ensures that no student is excluded from education due to financial hardship. In doing so, it addresses broader social inequalities and fosters a sense of dignity and inclusion among students, which is vital for their academic and personal development.

Sustainability & Income Diversification

By creating a sustainable business model, Student's Choice allows SSR to diversify its income streams. This financial stability ensures that the organisation can continue supporting vulnerable students for years to come. The profits generated from the enterprise are reinvested into SSR's programs, which means that the positive social impact of Student's Choice extends far beyond just the immediate provision of uniforms.





Community Engagement & Market Impact

Currently, the enterprise supplies uniforms to over 50 schools and has opened a dedicated retail space in Dandenong South, making it easier for families to access these essential items. Furthermore, Student's Choice has introduced a new layer of competition in the school uniform market, challenging traditional retail models by focusing on affordability without compromising on quality.



Expanding the Scope: Vocational Support

In addition to school uniforms, Student's Choice now offers workwear for students enrolled in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Vocational Major. This helps students transition from education to the workforce, further supporting SSR's overarching goal of removing barriers to educational success.

Social Impact in Numbers

The steady growth of Student's Choice is a testament to its success as a social enterprise. By integrating commercial sustainability with social purpose, the initiative has returned all profits to SSR, amplifying the organisation's capacity to support disadvantaged students across Victoria.



Special Projects

THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

SPECTACULAR

The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is an invaluable performing arts opportunity for Victoria's government primary and secondary school students. It celebrates the enormous talent that exists in Victorian government schools, bringing together students in a musical extravaganza. The annual program showcases and unites government school communities, working towards a common goal of more students reaching the highest level of achievement in the arts.

For the fourth consecutive year, State Schools' Relief was appointed as the preferred supplier of the official 2024 Victorian State Schools Spectacular merchandise. SSR produced specially printed long and short-sleeved t-shirts and commemorative hoodies for the Mass Choir, Mass Dance and the Core Performing Company, Crew & Staff.

In keeping with our values of equality, dignity and belonging, SSR was proud to support students in over 130 schools. For some families that were unable to meet the cost of the merchandise, SSR was able to provide these free of charge.

The Spectacular has become an invaluable rite of passage for Victoria's top young talent, providing a cherished and memorable education experience for all participants. It's a testament to the vibrant arts community within the state's schools and the dedication of everyone involved in making it a success year after year.



THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS
SPECTACULAR
2024

Splash
2024



“

In keeping with our values of equality, dignity and belonging, SSR was proud to support students in over 130 schools. For some families that were unable to meet the cost of the merchandise, SSR was able to provide these free of charge.

”



1991

Annual General Meeting - October 1991

S TATISTICS

STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1-7-90 to 30-6-91

(Counted on a daily basis)

TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ASSISTED:

	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>1989-90</u>
Primary	1497	1145
Post Primary	1977	1659
	<u>3474</u>	<u>2804</u>

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ASSISTED:

	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>1989-90</u>
Primary	2842	1972
Post Primary	2655	2057
	<u>5497</u>	<u>4029</u>

TOTAL COST OF ASSISTANCE:

	<u>1990-91</u>	<u>1989-90</u>
Primary	\$141,543	\$87,396
Post Primary	\$133,814	\$90,278
	<u>* \$275,357</u>	<u>\$177,674</u>

* Items supplied from our stock \$133,402

Authorized items from School

Shops and Retail Stores \$141,955

Average cost per student \$50.09 (c/f 1989-90 \$44.09)

FUND RAISING:

Donations received during the period 1-7-90 to 30-6-91:

	<u>Amounts</u>			
	<u>90-91</u>	<u>89-90</u>	<u>90-91</u>	<u>89-90</u>
Primary	815	1087	59,312.97	84,229.41
Post Primary	159	225	14,833.93	24,821.01
Other	92	61	40,078.85	84,990.87
Miscellaneous	1	1	75.50	8.00
	<u>1067</u>	<u>1374</u>	<u>\$114,301.25</u>	<u>194,049.29</u>

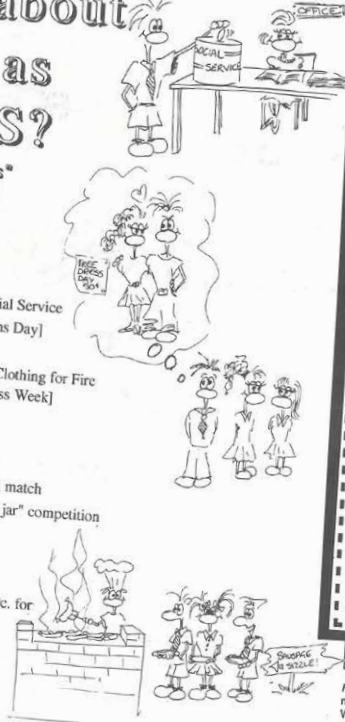


We rely on schools for 85% of our income.

How about these as IDEAS?

[Proven "recipes" submitted by schools!]

- * Profits from V.C.E. business projects
- * "FRIDAY TIN" for Social Service
- * Coin Trail [Part of Maths Day]
- * Barbecue
- * "Red Day" [Wear Red Clothing for Fire Awareness Week]
- * Pie Day
- * Out of Uniform Day
- * Casual Dress Day
- * Staff v. Students football match
- * "How many lollies in the jar" competition
- * Colouring Competition
- * Sausage Sizzle
- * Car Wash
- * Interclass Competition- 10c. for a leaf on the rainbow tree.
- * Walkathon



Each year we collect money for State Schools Relief. The money buys new clothes and shoes for kids in primary and secondary schools who are having a tough time. All schools have kids who could do with some help to have proper shoes or school windbreakers and uniforms. Last year we collected one and two cent coins in a coin trail across the basketball court. This year we need to help to raise \$200,000 for Victorian school kids to re-weave more than 16,100 items. Our special project this year is to fill up milk cartons with coins - one cent, two cent, five cent, ten cent, twenty cent. All the loose change we can find. Put the money into the cartons and decorate the cartons to look like our school with its new roof. Pairs on windows and doors and make a display in your room. Some small prizes will be awarded for best decorated or most realistic schools. Start collecting now: milk cartons and coins. The appeal will be held during the first ten days of August - just after the commencement of term 3. Remember all the money raised is used to provide school kids in Victoria with new clothes and shoes and is organised through each school's principal. Let's fill many school milk cartons and help this worthwhile cause.

Questions you always wanted to ask about State Schools' Relief

- Q. What is the function of the State Schools' Relief Committee?
- A. To raise monies to ensure that no child in Government schools - PRIMARY and SECONDARY - will suffer due to inadequate clothing.
- Q. How does your school receive help for its needy students?
- A. Principals determine need, and then apply directly to State Schools' Relief. Urgent cases are dealt with immediately, all other cases within a few days.
- Q. Is it true that State Schools' Relief only deals in new clothing?
- A. Yes - all clothing issued by S.S.R. or authorised through stores is new. Improving a student's self esteem through new clothes is of paramount importance.

Illustrations by Kirsten Holmgren



KARINGAL SECONDARY COLLEGE

ASHLEIGH AVENUE, FRANKSTON 3199
TELEPHONE: 789 0444
FAX No: 789 0177
PRINCIPAL
I.C. LIGHT, B.AGR.SC., B.ED., M.A.C.E.

19.8.91

Mr Ian Woodside,
Manager,
State Schools Relief Committee Inc.,
Locked Bag 7000,
Burwood. 3125

Dear Mr Woodside,

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$500, being the amount approved by College Council as a donation in response to your annual appeal.

Thank you very much for your invaluable assistance to our students.

We appreciate the very prompt attention to our requests by your staff, and in particular their good-humoured resolution of difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Pett

Janet Pett
Student Welfare Coordinator.

20 AUG 1991

Governor's Message

“

State Schools' Relief plays a vital role in our community, and I thank them for their work ensuring every Victorian child can participate fully at school.

”

As Patron of State Schools' Relief, I commend them for their achievements in 2023/24. As demand for their services has increased, they have risen admirably to the challenge.

Access to uniforms and learning equipment allows each student to focus on their education. It also supports a sense of belonging with their peers which generates strong social connections and support networks. Those connections are key to educational achievement.

State Schools' Relief plays a vital role in our community, and I thank them for their work ensuring every Victorian child can participate fully at school.

**Professor the Honourable
Margaret Gardner AC**
Governor of Victoria



Our Board Members

The direction and strategy of State Schools' Relief is overseen by a Board of Directors.



Susan Mann, Chair

B.A., Dip. Ed., GAICD.

Christine Stewart, Vice President

B.A., Dip. Ed.

Barry Smith

B.A, Dip. Ed, GAICD.

Cheryle Osborne

PhD, MEPA, MEPI, B Ed Dip. Teach (Primary)

Colin Axup

B.A (Hons), Dip. Ed, Grad. Dip Strategic Studies.

Gail McHardy

Julie Evans

BEc FIAA GAICD.

Maria Shearn

M. Student Welfare, Grad Dip. Multicultural Education, Dip. Ed.

Martina Owen

Grad Cert. EBL (Education Business Leadership)

Sean Collier

BBus, MBA, GAICD, FGIA.

Wilma Culton

B. Ed, M. Ed.

Zac Martin

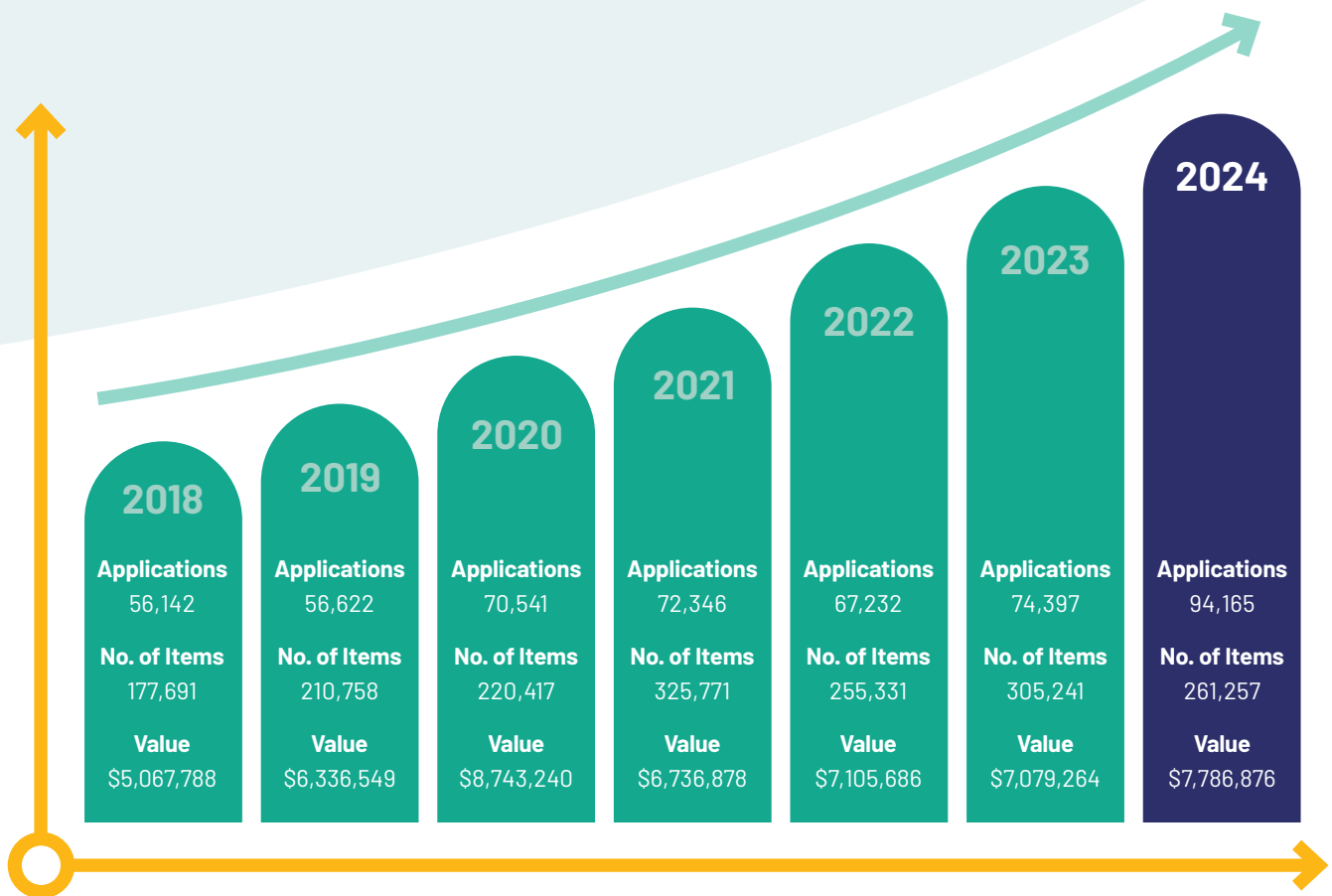
BBus.

Board member meeting attendance 2023/2024			
Member	Member Since	Status	Meetings Attended
Susan Mann	October 2017	Current	7 of 7
Barry Smith	September 2011	Current	5 of 7
Cheryle Osborne	February 2016	Current	6 of 7
Christine Stewart	February 2010	Retired Oct 2023	2 of 7
Colin Axup	February 2022	Current	7 of 7
Esther Wood	March 2009	Resigned July 2023	0 of 7
Gail McHardy	June 2022	Current	6 of 7
Julie Evans*	October 2023	Joined Oct 2023	5 of 7
Maria Shearn	March 2013	Retired Oct 2023	2 of 7
Martina Owen	October 2022	Current	6 of 7
Sean Collier	December 2020	Resigned Oct 2023	2 of 7
Tony Ross	December 2011	Resigned July 2023	0 of 7
Wilma Culton	November 2012	Current	6 of 7
Zac Martin*	October 2023	Joined Oct 2023	5 of 7

* Member joined during the 2023/24 year.

Facts & Figures

Participation in **education** is the main way out of poverty and this pathway must remain **open to every child**.



In 2023/2024, we approved **94,165** applications for support to disadvantaged Victorian state school students.



25,569

pairs of school shoes
& work boots

over **28,700**
socks, briefs and
singlets

6,013

swimwear items,
towels, caps & goggles

45,284

pairs of pants
and shorts

1,409

calculators

975

laptops

26,397

travel passes
supplied

3,710

stationery
packs

1,452

school
bags

4,604

hats &
beanies

646

hygiene
packs



**85% of Victorian state schools
were assisted in 2023/2024!**



That's 1,344 schools

Utilisation of our services in 2023/24: 70 x P-12 schools, 937 x Primary schools,
252 x Secondary schools and 85 x Specialist/Language schools.

Average cost
per application

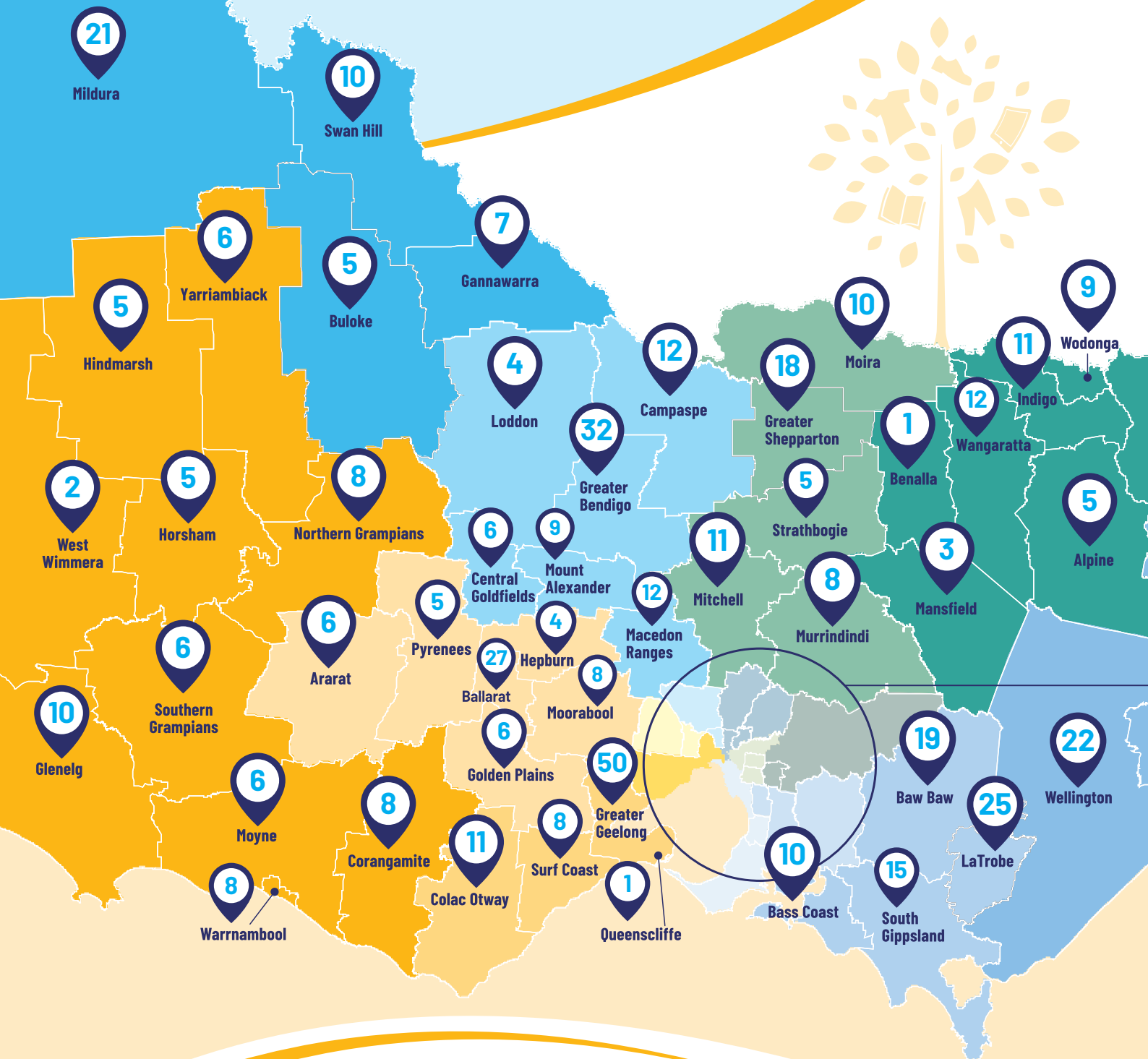
\$87.56
exl travel
passes

Average cost
per item

\$33.16
exl travel
passes

Support provided to Victorian Local Government Areas (LGAs)

Each number represents the number of schools we assisted in that area





SSR is proud
to have provided an
outstanding
amount of support to
1,344 schools
throughout Victoria
in 2023/2024.

Alpine (S)	5	Gannawarra (S)	7	Mansfield (S)	3	Queenscliffe (B)	1
Ararat (RC)	6	Glen Eira (C)	15	Maribyrnong (C)	12	South Gippsland (S)	15
Ballarat (C)	27	Glenelg (S)	10	Maroondah (C)	23	Southern Grampians (S)	6
Banyule (C)	22	Golden Plains (S)	6	Melbourne (C)	8	Stonnington (C)	7
Bass Coast (S)	10	Greater Bendigo (C)	32	Melton (C)	32	Strathbogie (S)	5
Baw Baw (S)	19	Greater Dandenong (C)	27	Mildura (RC)	21	Surf Coast (S)	8
Bayside (C)	12	Greater Geelong (C)	50	Mitchell (S)	11	Swan Hill (RC)	10
Benalla (RC)	1	Greater Shepparton (C)	24	Moira (S)	10	Towong (S)	8
Boroondara (C)	22	Hepburn (S)	4	Monash (C)	33	Wangaratta (RC)	12
Brimbank (C)	37	Hindmarsh (S)	5	Moonee Valley (C)	22	Warrnambool (C)	8
Buloke (S)	5	Hobsons Bay (C)	12	Moorabool (S)	8	Wellington (S)	22
Campaspe (S)	12	Horsham (RC)	5	Moreland (C)	23	West Wimmera (S)	2
Cardinia (S)	28	Hume (C)	49	Mornington Peninsula (S)	36	Whitehorse (C)	30
Casey (C)	65	Indigo (S)	11	Mount Alexander (S)	9	Whittlesea (C)	38
Central Goldfields (S)	6	Kingston (C)	29	Moyne (S)	6	Wodonga (C)	9
Colac-Otway (S)	11	Knox (C)	31	Murrindindi (S)	8	Wyndham (C)	47
Corangamite (S)	8	Latrobe (C)	25	Nilumbik (S)	13	Yarra (C)	12
Darebin (C)	25	Loddon (S)	4	Northern Grampians (S)	8	Yarra Ranges (S)	51
East Gippsland (S)	24	Macedon Ranges (S)	12	Port Phillip (C)	12	Yarriambiack (S)	6
Frankston (C)	33	Manningham (C)	18	Pyrenees (S)	5		



State Schools' Relief iPad Program 2024



Five years ago, we embarked on an innovative journey, launching a groundbreaking iPad pilot program to empower non-verbal students in specialist school settings.

This initiative was designed to address significant communication barriers faced by these students, both within the school setting and at home. With teachers, allied health staff, and school principals identifying students most in need, the program specifically targets those who struggle due to financial challenges, as the cost of an iPad can be out of reach for many families.

Across Victoria, there are over 80 government specialist schools, with a large number of students who are non-verbal. Traditionally, solutions to help these students communicate effectively with teachers, therapists, peers, and family members have been limited. However, technology has opened new doors. iPads, equipped with specialised apps, now provide a lifeline, offering an innovative way for students to develop language skills and break down communication barriers.

In Term 1 of 2024, we proudly launched the fifth phase of this transformative program, extending invitations to all specialist schools to apply on behalf of their non-verbal students. Thanks to the unwavering support from our generous and long-time funding partners, Bank First and ASCA, we successfully distributed 519 iPads, along with heavy-duty protective covers, to students across 57 schools in 42 local government areas.

Once again, 2024 saw us surpass the number of iPads provided in 2023—and with continued momentum, we're excited to expand our impact even further in 2025!



“

2024 saw us surpass the number of iPads provided to students in 2023! And, we're to expand our impact even further in 2025!

”



*An LGA is a Local Government Area.

In the state of **Victoria** there are 79 **local government areas (LGAs)**. Also referred to as municipalities. Victorian LGAs are classified as cities (34), shires (38), rural cities (6) and boroughs (1).

Perpetual

ASCA
BETTER BUYING POWER FOR SCHOOLS

bankfirst
invested in you



In 2023/2024, the Glasses for Kids program continued to make a significant impact on the lives of children across Victoria.

In August 2023, we successfully completed our service delivery to the final 15 targeted schools of the 340 schools targeted in the 2020-2023 iteration of the program, ensuring that students in need received the vision care they deserve. This delivery took place across 15 Local Government areas across the state both in metro and regional areas. A participation rate of 58.78% was the highest seen in the life of this iteration of the program, emphasising the desire of families to participate in the program.

Over the life of the 2020-2023 iteration of the program, the Glasses for Kids program impacted the lives of over 17,000 students who participated in the program. Comprehensive Eye Tests were provided for nearly 7,400 students and over 3,800 students received glasses to support their educational engagement.

Impact of the Program

The Glasses for Kids program continues to be transformative, not only for the students who received glasses but also for the teachers, educators and support staff who have witnessed first-hand the positive learning outcomes of the program for thousands of children throughout Victoria.

Surveying of school staff by Deloitte regarding the 2020-2024 iteration of the program found that:

95% indicated that student engagement in class has improved

92% indicated that the program had a positive impact on student wellbeing

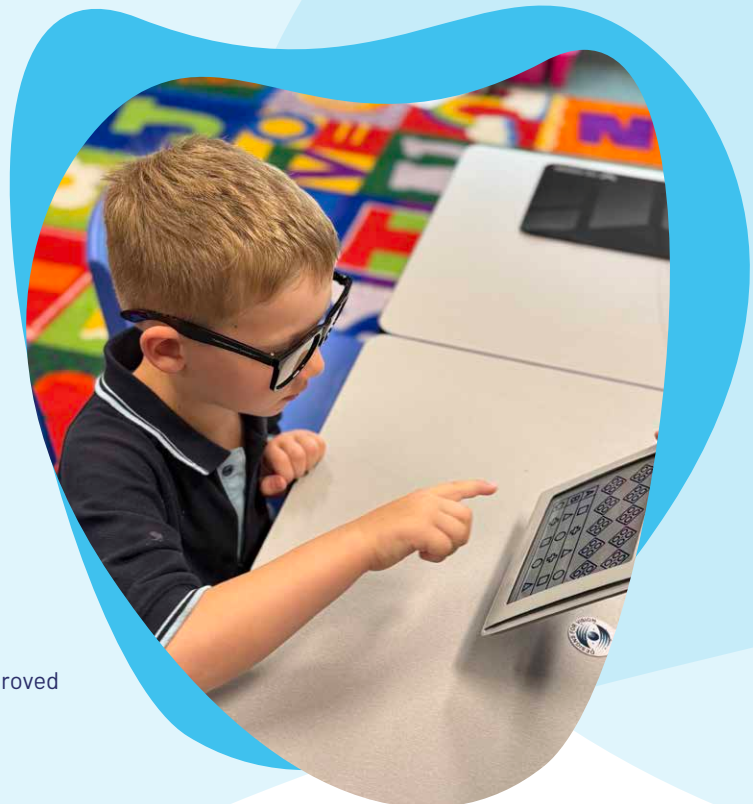
86% noticed an improvement in classroom behaviour.

One teacher noted;

"The program has improved student wellbeing as having the eye check done at an early stage meant that we are able to help the students with eye problems early on rather than later."

Another shared; "Individual student behaviours have improved now that they are able to focus better in class."

These testimonials reflect the impact of the program in terms of improved educational engagement and overall wellbeing among students.





Launch of the 2024-2027 Glasses for Kids program

2024 saw the launch of the 2024-2027 Glasses for Kids program. Generous funding from the Victorian Department of Education would allow the program to initially target over 33,000 students across 300 schools. However, in 2024, it was announced that State Schools' Relief would receive additional funding to allow the expansion of the Glasses for Kids program to 473 more schools. This will enable us to target 770 schools in total and up to 107,000 students between 2024 and 2027. This expansion is a testament to the program's success and the vital support we receive from the state government and our partners.

Delivery of this iteration of the program has already started strongly, with our dedicated team already having visited 31 school across 15 Local government areas in 2024. Nearly 3,000 students have participated in this iteration of the program to date, with over 700 pairs of glasses already prescribed. High participation rates across both Term 1 and Term 2 of 2024 show the program has continued to be well received in the community and in targeted schools.





Vision for the Future

Our vision for the future is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, can succeed in their education without the hindrance of vision impairments and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the Department of Education, program staff, and partner optometrists to deliver this vital service across Victoria.

Quotes from teachers and school staff:

"It had an immense impact on learning outcomes for all students receiving glasses from GFK. Problematic behaviour in the classroom was reduced and set programs run more smoothly."

"Having this program delivered onsite was so much easier for our students, this was also easier for our families as sometimes it can be a struggle for them to get their children to an outside optometrist."

"My student is more engaged during our whole class instruction and discussions and actively gets his glasses so he can follow along closely to anything used on our interactive whiteboard."

"This service is so important for our school. It picked up on students who needed glasses, who would not have received help elsewhere. This has enabled these students to reach their full educational learning potential."

Program Outcomes 2023/24

46 Participating schools
(30 metro / 16 regional)

4,122 Consent forms received

3,085 Vision screenings provided

1,758 Comprehensive eye tests conducted

961 Pairs of glasses prescribed

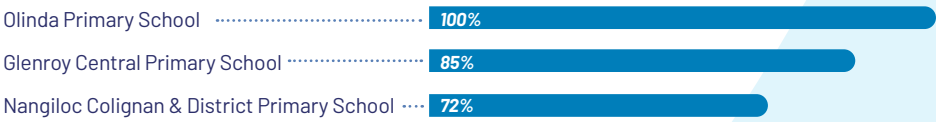
739 Referral letters written



Participation Rates in 2023/24

Top 3 Schools Per Region

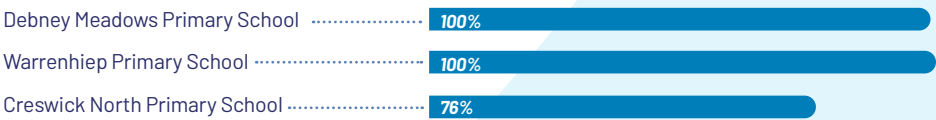
North Western Victoria



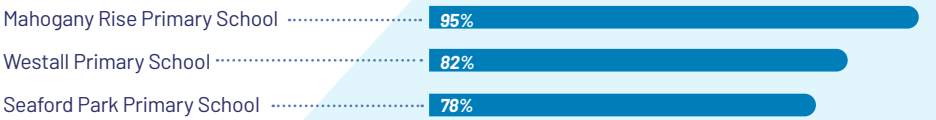
North Eastern Victoria



South Western Victoria



South Eastern Victoria



participation rate (%) 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Number of schools visited per region and Local Government Area

North Western Victoria

Central Goldfields	1
Loddon	1
Mildura	3
Moreland	1
Whittlesea	1
Yarra Ranges	1

North Eastern Victoria

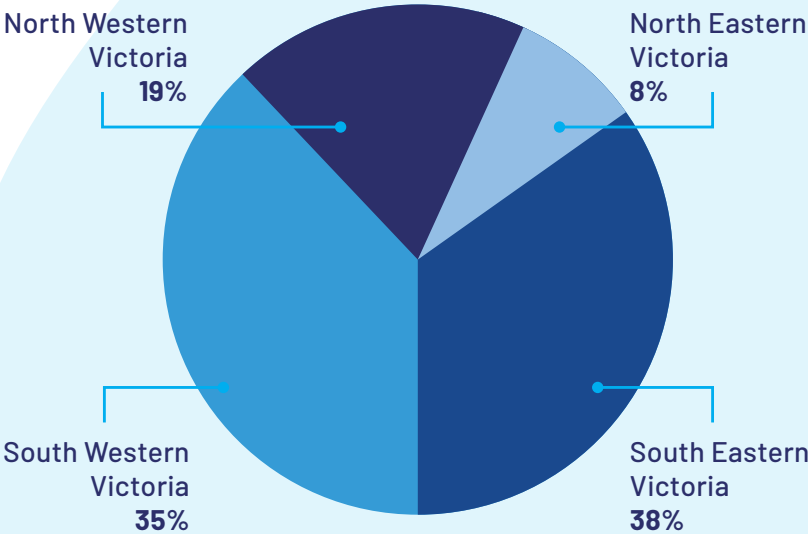
Goulburn	1
Ovens Murray	1

South Western Victoria

Ballarat	2
Brimbank	2
Greater Geelong	4
Hepburn	1
Hobsons Bay	1
Moonee Valley	1
Moorabool	1
Wyndham	2

South Eastern Victoria

Cardinia	3
Casey	2
Frankston	6
Frankston East	1
Greater Dandenong	7
Kingston	1
Mornington Peninsula	2



TRAVEL PASS PROGRAM

A Travel Pass is a 30-day pre-paid paper travel pass that makes it possible for an eligible Victorian student to travel on all Public Transport Victoria services throughout Victoria. This includes trains, trams, buses, V/Line trains and coaches and regional town buses.



Almost two years into the program and Travel Passes have supported many students to travel to and from school safely which has increased the likelihood of attendance. Recent evaluation of the program conducted by the DTP has seen a **59.9% increase** in students' attendance once being issued with a 30-day Travel Pass.

Since the start of the program State Schools' Relief has processed over 10,000 applications and issued well over 52,000 passes with a total of 506 schools participating in the program.

More than

52,000
Travel Passes

have been distributed
since the start of the
program!



With many families having competing priorities, especially where finances are concerned, our Travel Pass Program has helped alleviate the stress a little. Financial hardship is the number one category chosen by our schools.

The Travel Pass Program has received positive feedback from both schools and students. Below is just some of the feedback received.



“

Impactful Feedback

“From our perspective, the travel passes are invaluable. Aside from the fact that they support our students to get to/from school safely, they also increase the likelihood of attendance. Often students do not come to school because parents/carers can't afford fuel, or they work, and time becomes a barrier.”

“

We are so thankful for the travel passes, they have helped so many of our struggling families. Our students are grateful and always smile every time I distribute their travel pass each month. Thank you so much State Schools' Relief for your help and support for all our students and their families.

”

“The travel passes have helped our students and their families immensely. We are a special needs school and some of our older do travel to and from independently. The cards have given them independence they need and also helps with getting the families to and from appointments that the children may have. Thank you this is a wonderful program.”

“Attendance is a big focus at the Department of Education, so these passes help to address a crucial part of a student's time at school.”

“The program has been vital for us! We have students who were getting fines because they were not able to afford transport and needed to get to school. There are families who are able to now allocate money to bills that they used to have to provide to transport. This has been an incredible program.”

Financial Performance



The Financial Report has been audited by McPhail & Partners Pty Ltd who have advised the report is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

If you would like to request a copy of the complete audited 2023/24 financial statement, please call 03 8769 8400 or email contact@ssr.net.au

Statement of Financial Position	2023/24	2022/23
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	777,457	2,576,362
Trade and other receivables	110,596	153,403
Inventories	3,524,444	1,199,741
Other financial asset	2,941,578	1,008,630
Other assets	20,941	62,094
Total Current Assets	7,375,016	5,000,230
Non-current Assets		
Other financial assets	15	15
Property, plant and equipment	399,607	112,828
Intangible assets	246,698	9,465
Right-of-use assets	26,466	71,835
Total non-current Assets	672,786	194,143
Total Assets	8,047,802	5,194,373
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	3,386,901	1,037,584
Employee benefits	71,669	119,169
Contract liabilities	320,773	-
Lease liabilities	27,382	45,321
Total current liabilities	3,806,725	1,202,074
Non Current Liabilities		
Employee benefits	74,381	90,269
Lease Liability	-	27,383
Total non current liabilities	74,381	117,679
Total liabilities	3,881,106	1,319,753
Net assets	4,166,696	3,874,620
Equity		
Retained earnings	4,166,696	3,874,620

Statement of Cash Flows	2023/24	2022/23
Cash flows from operating activities	\$	\$
Receipts from donors and funding agencies	\$11,145,209	9,147,180
Payments to suppliers and employees	-\$10,521,800	-10,030,417
Interest received	\$140,679	72,270
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$764,088	-810,967
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payment for intangible assets	-\$266,518	-53,101
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-\$316,756	-9,465
Investment in term deposits	-\$1,932,948	-1,008,630
Net cash by/(used in) financing activities	-\$2,516,222	-1,071,196
Cash flows from Financing Activities		
Payment of lease liabilities	-46,771	-48,537
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-46,771	-48,537
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-1,798,905	-1,930,700
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2,576,362	4,507,062
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	777,457	2,576,362



Statement of Profit & Loss	2023/24	2022/23
Revenue from continuing operations	\$	\$
Grants	9,633,416	8,079,558
Fundraising sales	806,570	766,095
Donations, gifts & in-kind revenue	602,139	469,089
Other income	143,188	87,389
Total Revenue	11,185,313	9,402,131
Cost of Goods	-7,092,592	-5,945,222
Operating Revenue after Cost of Goods	4,092,721	3,456,909
Expenses		
Employee benefits	-2,483,635	-2,275,749
Other operating and administrative expenses	-1,366,555	-1,372,180
Total Expenses	-3,850,190	-3,647,929
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	49,545	-
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	292,076	-191,020
Income tax Expense	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	292,076	-191,020



Partnerships, Support and Fundraising

Individual donors, partner organisations, philanthropic foundations and schools across the state continue to help us support the needs of disadvantaged Victorian students by providing them with necessary footwear, clothing and other essential educational resources required for educational engagement and achievement.

State Schools' Relief is committed to breaking the link between disadvantage and achievement. Thanks to our generous supporters, we continue to provide Victorian state school students with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Principal Partner



Department
of Education

Corporate Partner



Major Supporters



Philanthropic Supporters

Andrews Foundation
ANZUK
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Gandel Philanthropy
Perpetual
The William Angliss Charitable Fund
The Women of the University Fund

In Kind Supporters

Holding Redlich
OneSight
Department of Transport and Planning Victoria

Thank You

“ Thank you to our corporate partners, supporters and donors. ”



How you can help

The important work of State Schools' Relief requires your support. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



Follow us online



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