

Annual Report 2025-2026

Confidence grows

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

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State Schools Relief



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About us

Every Victorian student should belong, learn and succeed, no matter their background.

State Schools Relief seeks to ensure Victorian government school students experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis have the essentials they need to learn and take part in school life. We work alongside schools to provide quality uniforms, footwear, vision care, learning resources and other essentials, discreetly and with dignity.

For more than 95 years, we have partnered with Victorian government primary, secondary, specialist and language schools. Schools know their students best. Our role is to make practical support simple to access, so school staff can focus on teaching and student wellbeing.

In 2025-2026, we supported more applications and more schools than ever before, and stepped up quickly when communities were affected by bushfires in January. We also launched a renewed brand that makes it easier for schools, families and supporters to understand who we are and how we help.

Our vision
Every student has equal access to education with a sense of belonging and dignity.

Our purpose
To enable access to high-quality educational support for school students in need.

Our values

Opportunity
Empowering students to succeed by removing barriers that stand in the way of their learning and potential.

Dignity
Lifting every student's sense of worth by providing the resources they need to participate with confidence.

Belonging
Strengthening school communities by ensuring every student feels welcome, supported and connected.



From the Chair

This year, State Schools Relief supported more Victorian students and schools than at any time in its 96-year history.

As families continued to navigate persistent cost-of-living pressures, demand for our practical support remained exceptionally high throughout 2025-2026 and the State Schools Relief team responded with care, discipline, and agility.

More than 100,000 applications were processed across our welfare programs delivered on behalf of the Victorian Government. Through the Affordable School Uniform program, we assisted over 69,000 students across 1,389 schools. Additionally, the Glasses for Kids program provided free vision screenings and testing to over 20,700 students, ensuring vision issues did not go undiagnosed or untreated.

When bushfires impacted Victorian communities in January, we mobilized rapidly alongside the Victorian Department of Education. By implementing extraordinary response measures and working directly with local school leaders, we quickly identified and met the immediate needs of affected students. This crisis response highlighted the strength of our deep-rooted school relationships and our capacity to rapidly scale support when families need it most.

In June 2026, we launched a refreshed brand and website for Equal Threads, the new name for State Schools Relief's social enterprise. This aims to provide families with affordable uniform options while generating funds to support our core welfare programs.

This year, the Board welcomed Tracey Smith and Debra Gibson, both of whom bring invaluable school knowledge and experience. I would like to extend my gratitude to Michelle Nunn and Martina Owen, whom we farewelled this year, and thank all Board members for their guidance, advocacy, and commitment to transforming students' lives.

I want to particularly thank CEO Andrew Cameron and the entire State Schools Relief team for their exceptional professionalism during one of the most demanding years in our history. I'd also like to thank our funders and contributors, most notably, the Victorian Department of Education. Your combined efforts ensure that every student in a Victorian state school can arrive at their classroom feeling confident, dignified, and ready to learn.



Susan Mann
Chair

From the CEO

In 2025-2026, State Schools Relief achieved record reach across Victorian government schools and advanced a program of change that is making our support faster, more flexible and closer to the communities we serve.



Every application we receive represents a student who deserves to arrive at school ready to learn, feeling confident and included. This year we supported more than 100,000 applications from Victorian government schools across our programs and the Affordable School Uniform program was utilised by a record 1,389 schools. The Glasses for Kids program delivered more than 20,700 vision screenings and 4,700 pairs of glasses, bringing eye care into schools and removing cost and travel barriers for families.

Funding and support from the Victorian Government enables SSR to work at scale. Efficiency is critical to SSR's operations, maximising what can be achieved within available funding. We have built the systems and team required to meet growing demand from schools. We launched our renewed brand and website, and introduced Equal Threads as a commercially oriented social enterprise to drive new revenue generation for reinvestment in students. Our staff, corporate partners and philanthropic donors, all stepped up in 2025-2026 to enable SSR to maximise its potential impact in response to cost-of-living pressures being experienced by families.

Flexibility was a defining feature of the year. In January, we changed our operational settings to ensure impacted schools received support consistent with their emergency recovery requirements. We began a pilot to warehouse SSR's stock on-site in specialist schools, so students can receive immediate support when required.

And we listened closely to schools, optometrists and families, which led to new glasses frame and lens options for students with additional needs via the Glasses for Kids program.

We also invested in being closer to schools. Our new Schools Partnerships Coordinator completed more than 100 in-person school visits, and we delivered a series of webinars to help school staff understand the support available and how to access it. In May, we joined the Victorian Department of Education at the 2026 Victorian Government Schools Principals Conference, where we had the opportunity to meet and hear from principals from across the state.

Feedback from schools tells us that our work matters. In our 2026 schools survey, 96 per cent of school staff agreed that the support we provide reduces financial pressure on families, and 97 per cent rated their overall experience with State Schools Relief as good or excellent. These results reflect both the importance of what we provide and the care with which our team delivers our programs.

I extend my sincere thanks to our Board for their guidance and support, to the Victorian Department of Education and our partners for their continued trust, and to our staff for their care, professionalism and hard work throughout the year. I look forward to building our shared achievements over the year ahead.



Andrew Cameron
Chief Executive Officer

Our year at a glance

Key moments from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

November 2025 — First webinar for school staff new to the Affordable School Uniform program, the first of four delivered during the year

December 2025 — Travel Passes for Students in Crisis concluded as new statewide transport support for students began in January 2026

January 2026 — Bushfire response begins, with normal item limits removed for affected students

January 2026 — 2026 schools survey opens, gathering feedback from more than 500 school staff by May

February 2026 — Busiest month of the year, with more than 19,600 applications received as students returned to school

May 2026 — Glasses for Kids Clinical Advisory Committee established, bringing optometrists and optical dispensers together to guide program improvement

May 2026 — State Schools Relief partners with the Victorian Department of Education in exhibiting at the 2026 Victorian Government Schools Principals Conference

June 2026 — Pre-positioning State Schools Relief stock pilot begins with specialist schools

June 2026 — Renewed State Schools Relief brand, new websites and resources for schools released, plus the launch of the Equal Threads social enterprise uniform sales brand.

19,600+
applications in February 2026

4
webinars for school staff

500+
school staff shared feedback in the 2026 survey

A renewed brand

State Schools Relief

Confidence grows

In June 2026, State Schools Relief launched a renewed brand and a new website. After more than 95 years of supporting Victorian students, the new brand gives the organisation a clearer and more accessible way to explain who it is, what it does and how schools, families and supporters can connect with it.

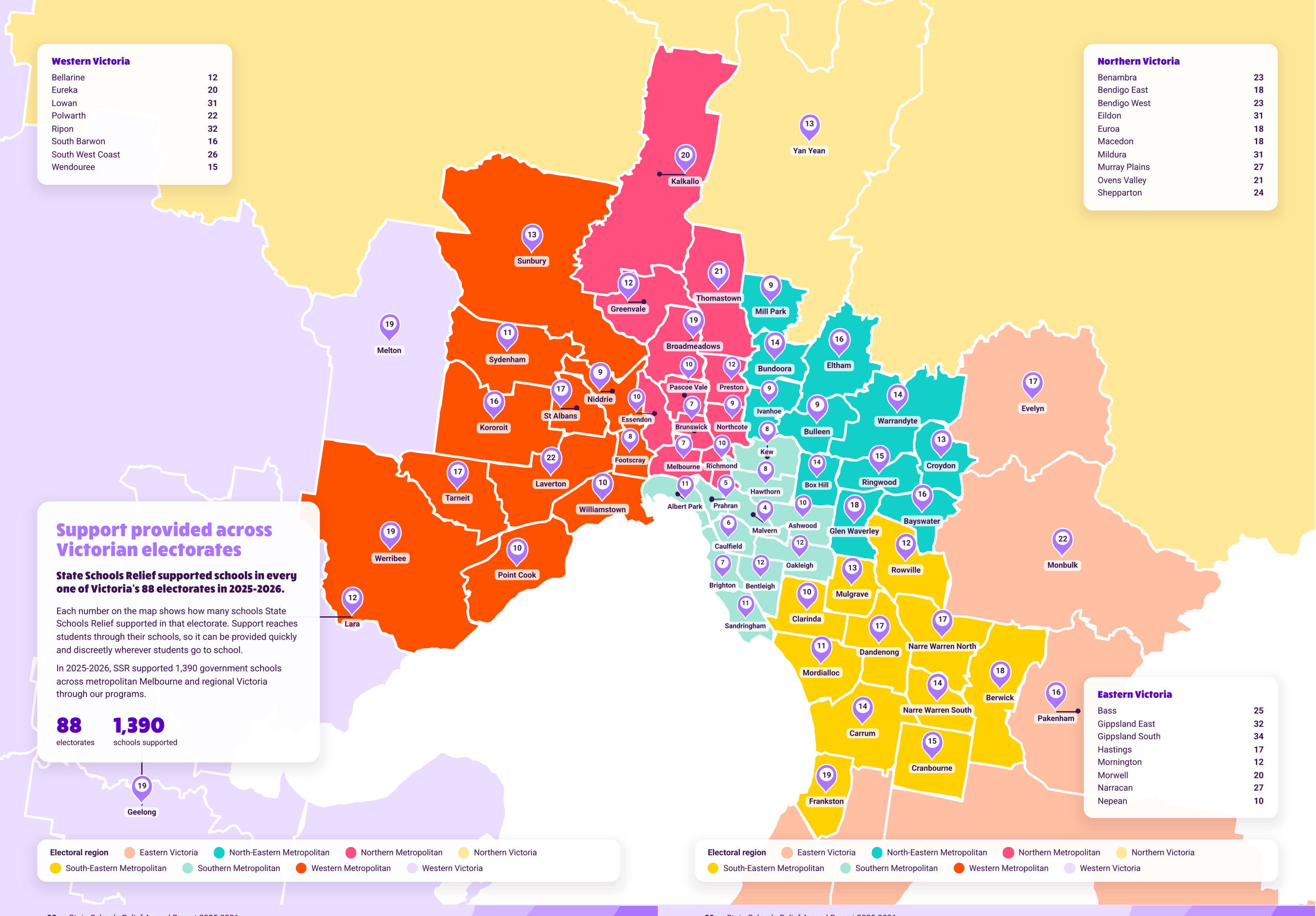
The new brand is built on a simple idea: confidence grows. The logo places a student at the centre and represents how the confidence of students, classrooms, schools, families and communities grows when students have what they need to take part in school life.

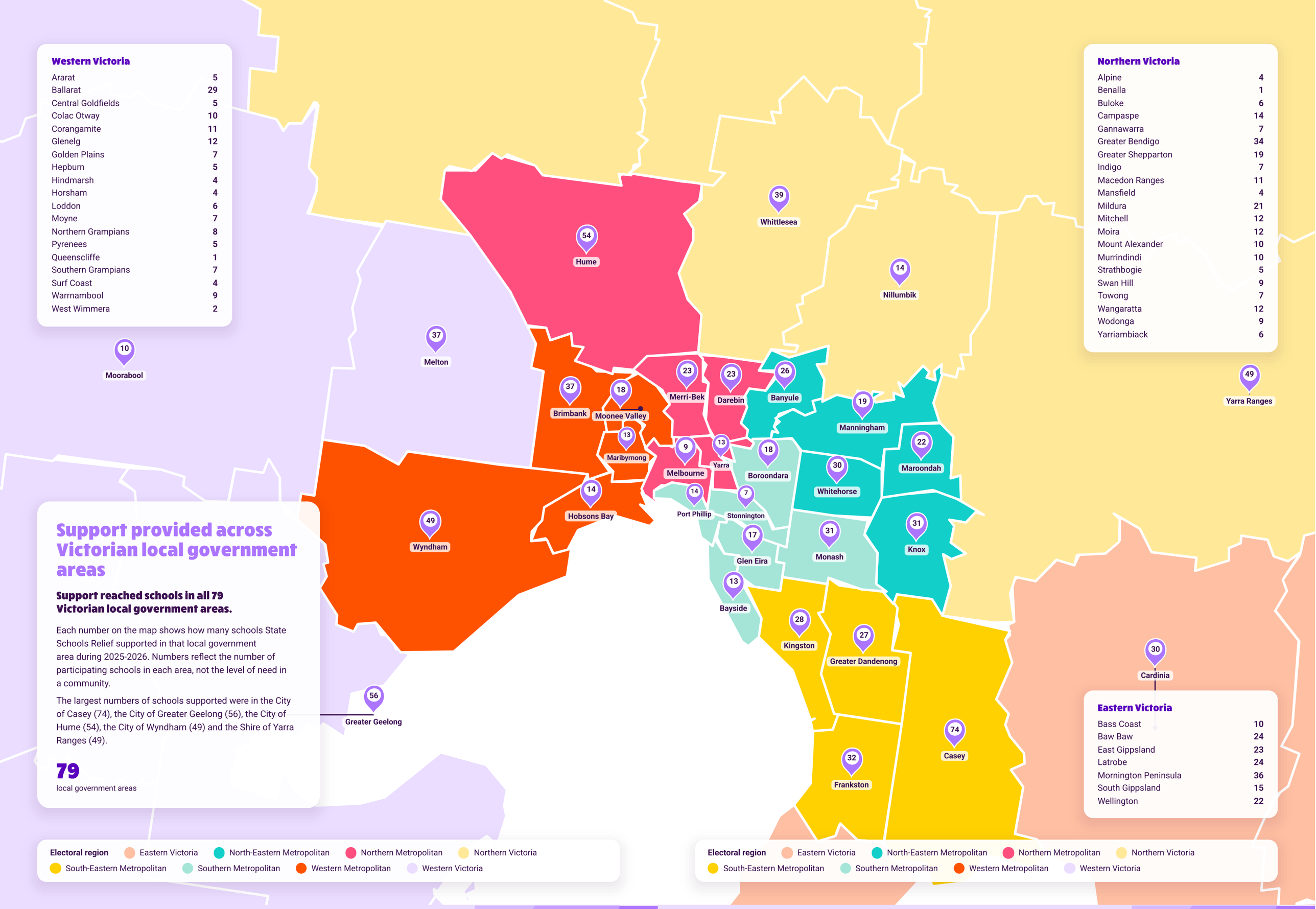
As part of the change, the organisation's name is now written as State Schools Relief, without an apostrophe, to make it simpler and easier to read. The new website, stateschoolsrelief.org.au, makes it easier to find information about each program, understand how schools can apply and see how partners and donors can help. The new brand is being applied across school communities, vouchers, publications and the school portal.

Alongside the new State Schools Relief brand, the organisation's social enterprise was relaunched as Equal Threads, with its own website, so that the difference between commercial school wear and SSR's free support programs is clear.



The brand in use
Merchandise, school information card and the ASU Good Practice Guide for Schools


Western Victoria
Bellarine 12
Eureka 20
Lowan 31
Polwarth 22
Ripon 32
South Barwon 16
South West Coast 26
Wendouree 15
Northern Victoria
Benambra 23
Bendigo East 18
Bendigo West 23
Eildon 31
Euroa 18
Macedon 18
Mildura 31
Murray Plains 27
Ovens Valley 21
Shepparton 24
Yan Yean 13
Kalkallo 20
Sunbury 13
Greenvale 12
Thomastown 21
Mill Park 9
Melton 19
Broadmeadows 19
Sydenham 11
Bundoora 14
Eltham 16
Pascoe Vale 10
Preston 12
Niddrie 9
Ivanhoe 9
Evelyn 17
St Albans 17
Essendon 10
Brunswick 7
Northcote 9
Bulleen 9
Warrandyte 14
Kororoit 16
Footscray 8
Melbourne 8
Richmond 10
Kew 8
Croydon 13
Tarneit 17
Laverton 22
Williamstown 10
Albert Park 11
Prahran 5
Hawthorn 8
Box Hill 14
Ringwood 15
Werribee 19
Point Cook 10
Malvern 4
Ashwood 10
Glen Waverley 18
Bayswater 16
Caulfield 6
Oakleigh 12
Rowville 12
Monbulk 22
Brighton 7
Bentleigh 12
Mulgrave 13
Lara 12
Clarinda 10
Sandringham 11
Dandenong 17
Narre Warren North 17
Mordialloc 11
Berwick 18
Narre Warren South 14
Pakenham 16
Carrum 14
Cranbourne 15
Frankston 19
Geelong 19
Support provided across Victorian electorates
State Schools Relief supported schools in every one of Victoria's 88 electorates in 2025-2026.
Each number on the map shows how many schools State Schools Relief supported in that electorate. Support reaches students through their schools, so it can be provided quickly and discreetly wherever students go to school.
In 2025-2026, SSR supported 1,390 government schools across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria through our programs.
88 electorates
1,390 schools supported
Eastern Victoria
Bass 25
Gippsland East 32
Gippsland South 34
Hastings 17
Mornington 12
Morwell 20
Narracan 27
Nepean 10
Electoral region
Eastern Victoria
North-Eastern Metropolitan
Northern Metropolitan
Northern Victoria
South-Eastern Metropolitan
Southern Metropolitan
Western Metropolitan
Western Victoria



Support provided across Victorian local government areas

Support reached schools in all 79 Victorian local government areas.

Each number on the map shows how many schools State Schools Relief supported in that local government area during 2025-2026. Numbers reflect the number of participating schools in each area, not the level of need in a community.

The largest numbers of schools supported were in the City of Casey (74), the City of Greater Geelong (56), the City of Hume (54), the City of Wyndham (49) and the Shire of Yarra Ranges (49).

79
local government areas

Impact at a glance

2025-2026 in numbers

102,000+
applications supported across all State Schools Relief programs (102,883)

69,000+
individual students supported

1,390
schools were supported across all State Schools Relief programs

240,000+
essential items and vouchers supplied

$12.4 million+
retail value of support delivered to students (excluding Glasses for Kids)

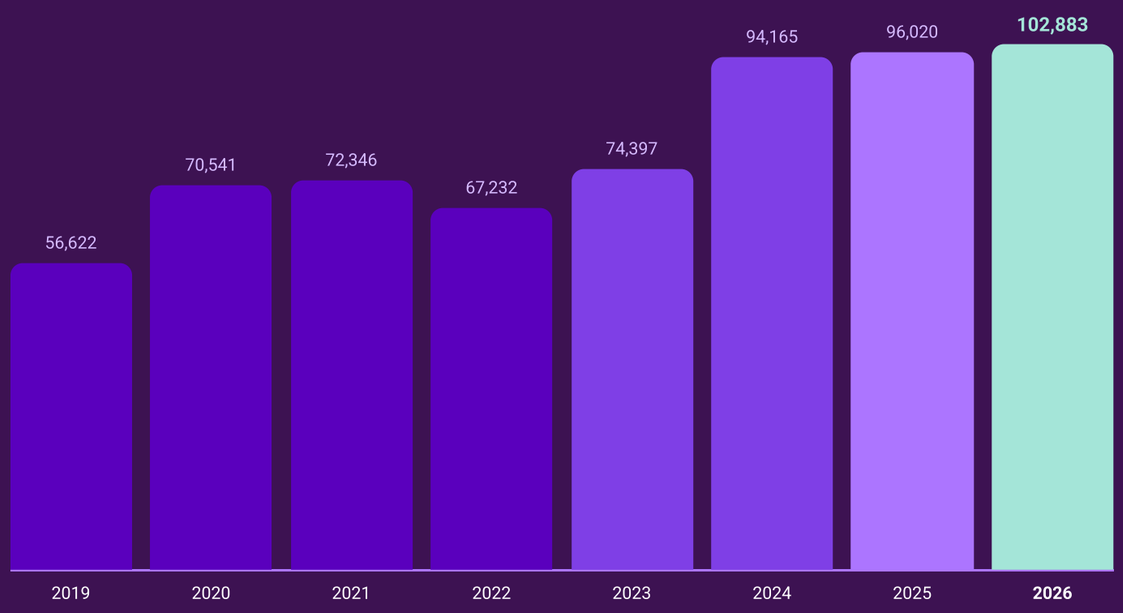
20,700+
vision screenings through Glasses for Kids

4,700+
pairs of free glasses provided

252
applications supported after the January 2026 bushfires

96%
of school staff agree our support reduces financial pressure on families

Applications over time



What we supplied

69,879
uniform vouchers for school essentials

43,847
pairs of pants, shorts, skirts and other uniform bottoms

27,842
school tops and dresses

22,143
pairs of school shoes

18,974
pairs of socks, underwear and singlets

16,638
jackets and jumpers

8,248
stationery packs and other school supplies

7,647
swimwear items, towels, caps and goggles

5,329
hats and beanies

4,256
essential bathroom packs and head lice treatments

2,835
calculators

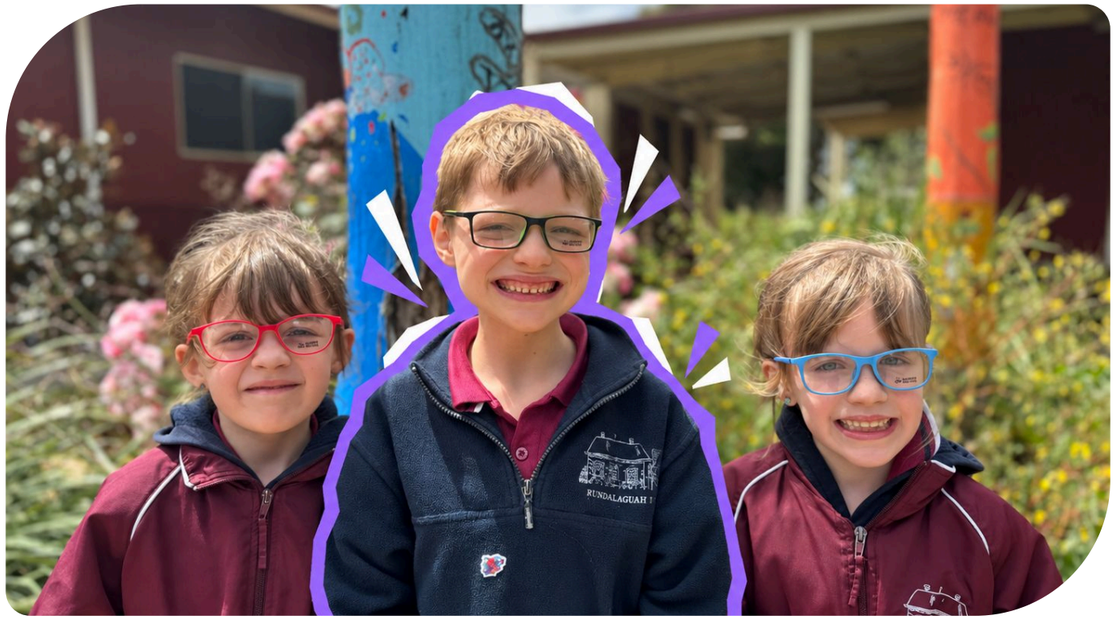
1,738
school bags

1,116
workwear items, including work boots

707
laptops

6,800+
travel passes (to December 2025)

414
iPads for students with communication needs





Affordable School Uniform program

Practical support so every student can start the school day ready to learn

The Affordable School Uniform program helps students experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis get the clothing, footwear and school essentials they need to take part fully in school life. Funded by the Victorian Government and delivered in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education, the program works through schools. School staff identify students who need support and apply on their behalf, so help reaches students quickly and discreetly.

In 2025-2026, the program received 99,141 applications – the highest number in its history, up from 96,020 the year before. Participation also reached a new high, with 1,389 schools seeking support for their students, up from 1,278 in 2024-2025. Around 88 per cent of Victorian government schools now use the program.

Schools can request uniform items, vouchers for logoed items from local uniform suppliers, school shoes, socks and underwear, jackets, swimwear, stationery, school bags, essential bathroom packs, workwear for vocational students and more. Uniform vouchers made up 29 per cent of all items supplied, giving families choice and the chance to shop for uniforms in the same way as other families at their school.

99,141
applications – the highest in the program's history

1,389
participating schools, up from 1,278

88%
of Victorian government schools use the program

Demand followed the rhythm of the school year. February 2026 was the busiest month, with more than 19,600 applications received across our programs as students returned to school. Strong stock planning, procurement and cost controls, plus efficient customer service and logistics meant support continued to reach schools through the peak.

In June, we partnered with Upparel to improve the way unusable textiles are managed. Through the partnership, textiles that cannot be reused are diverted from landfill and recovered for recycling, supporting SSR's commitment to responsible resource use.

Most applications (78 per cent) were made because a family was experiencing financial hardship. The program also supported students in out-of-home care, students affected by family violence and students experiencing homelessness or crisis. First Nations students and students from refugee backgrounds together made up around 16 per cent of the students supported.

Getting closer to schools

In 2025-2026, State Schools Relief invested in stronger relationships with the schools it serves.

A new Schools Partnerships Coordinator joined the team and completed more than 100 in-person school visits during the year. These visits helped school staff understand the full range of support available, gave schools a direct way to raise practical issues and gave SSR a clearer picture of what students need in different communities.

SSR also introduced a series of webinars for school staff, covering eligibility, how to apply for support, the items available and program updates. Interest grew as the series progressed, with registrations rising from 94 for the Term 1 webinar to 127 for Term 2. Recordings and resources were shared with every registrant.

In May 2026, SSR joined the Victorian Department of Education at the 2026 Victorian Government Schools Principals Conference, meeting principals from across Victoria to share how schools can access support for their students.

Testing faster support in specialist schools

In June 2026, SSR began a pilot to pre-position stock in specialist schools. Each participating school holds a small supply of core uniform items – tops, bottoms, shoes, socks and underwear – in common sizes. When a student needs an item of clothing, staff can provide it straight away, then submit an application so the item is replaced and remains ready for the next student.

The pilot responds to feedback from specialist schools, where having the right item available on the day can make a real difference to a student's comfort and dignity. Eleven specialist schools are taking part in the pilot, and their feedback will shape how the approach could be extended.

What schools told us

In 2026, SSR asked school staff about their experience of the program and the difference it makes for students. The 2026 schools survey received 532 responses from principals, wellbeing staff, business managers and other school staff across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.

96%
agree the support reduces financial pressure on families

97%
rate their overall experience with SSR as good or excellent

95%
rate the process and timeliness of receiving items as good or excellent

94%
rate the support and communication of SSR staff as good or excellent

72%
agree classrooms are more inclusive for students who receive support

71%
agree students show greater self-confidence and self-esteem

Staff described students who no longer stand out for wearing the wrong clothes, new arrivals who can start school sooner, and students who are more willing to ask for help because support is provided without judgement.

"We have had students who would not attend school who have now become regular attenders since they received their uniform. Now they feel like they fit in."

Business manager, rural secondary school

"The ability to supply basic items such as shoes in a confidential manner allows not only the student, but the families to maintain their dignity."

Business manager, rural primary school

"We arranged swimwear for a prep student so that they could participate in our intensive swim program. They would not have participated otherwise and had the biggest smile to be in the water for the first time."

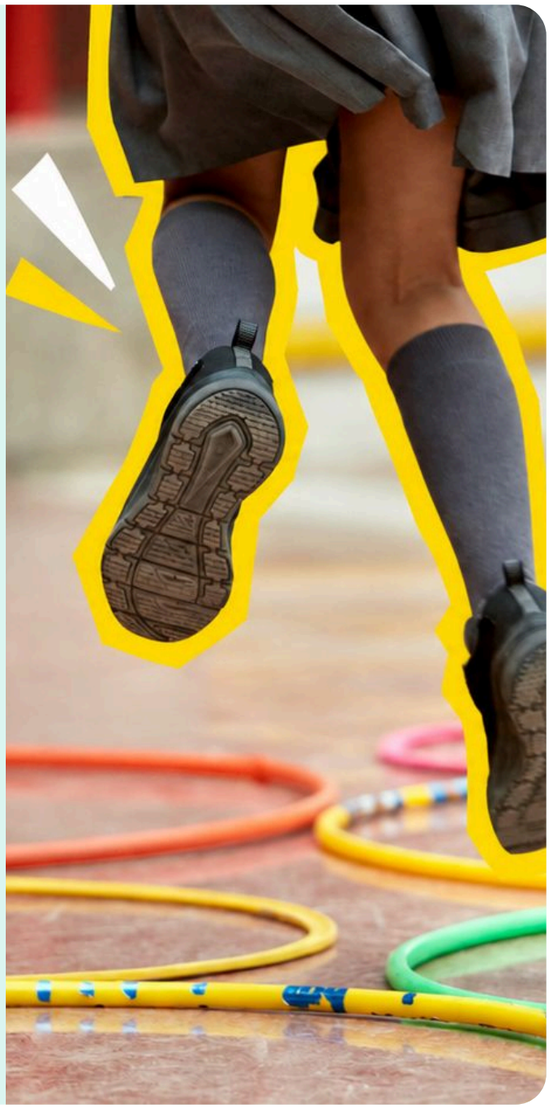
Business manager, metropolitan primary school

Helping new arrivals start school sooner

At one metropolitan secondary school, many students are new to Australia, including students from refugee backgrounds. Staff told us that uniform support means new students can be enrolled and in class quickly, without the cost of a uniform falling on families who are settling into a new country.

"It has enabled us to get students enrolled and in classes quickly without the burden on parents. Without the support of SSR, many students would be delayed in starting."

Education support staff member, metropolitan secondary school



Program partner
The Affordable School Uniform program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Department of Education.



Bringing vision care into schools so students can see clearly as they learn

Glasses for Kids brings free vision screening, follow-up testing and prescription glasses into Victorian government schools for students from Prep to Year 3. Funded by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Department of Education, the program removes the cost, travel and time barriers that can stop families from accessing eye care.

In 2025-2026, the program visited 293 schools – 183 in regional Victoria and 110 in metropolitan Melbourne – and delivered 20,710 vision screenings. A total of 4,712 pairs of free glasses were provided, around 46 per cent more than in 2024-2025. Screenings increased by around 59 per cent over the same period.

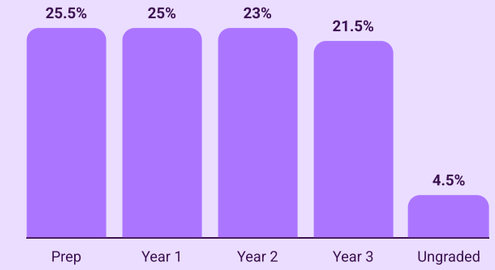
Parent consent reached 55 per cent, the highest rate in the program's history. More families saying yes means more students are screened, and more vision issues are picked up early. More than one in five students screened needed glasses.

Glasses were provided almost evenly across Prep to Year 3, with Prep students the largest single group. Identifying vision issues this early gives students the best possible start as they learn to read and write.

Program outcomes 2025-2026

Participating schools	293 (110 metro / 183 regional)
Students targeted	38,131
Parent consent rate	55%
Vision screenings provided	20,710
Pairs of glasses provided	4,712

Glasses provided by year level



Improving the program with practitioners, schools and families

A new Clinical Advisory Committee

SSR established the Glasses for Kids Clinical Advisory Committee, bringing together optometrists and optical dispensers who deliver the program in schools. The committee provides expert advice on clinical consistency, the student experience, frames and fitting, and information for families, helping the program keep improving as it grows.

Frames designed for students with additional needs

New frame options were co-designed for students with additional needs, including flexible silicone frames suited to specialist school settings. The frame range was also broadened to include styles that fit a wider range of face shapes and sizes, so more students can find glasses that are comfortable to wear all day.

New lens options

In response to feedback from optometrists and other stakeholders, the program introduced new lens types, including access to additional types of myopia management lenses, where recommended by the student's optometrist.



What schools observed

School staff told us how the program is changing students' experience in the classroom. In the 2025-2026 Glasses for Kids impact surveys, around three in four school staff agreed that students who received glasses participate more actively in lessons, complete reading and writing tasks more confidently and show greater self-confidence at school.

76% agree students complete reading and writing tasks more confidently

75% agree students participate more actively in lessons

87% agree the program reduced financial barriers for families

82% agree students wear their glasses when needed in class

100% of schools rated their overall experience good or excellent (90% excellent)

55% parent consent – the highest in the program's history

> **Today one of my prep students, who is learning to speak English, popped on her glasses and jubilantly declared, with a smile going from ear to ear, "I see, I see, I see!"**
>
> Primary school staff member, 2026

"Optometry services do not exist in our local community. Families face a 30-40 minute regional drive to bigger towns to be able to access services like these and for many, this isn't an option."

Rural primary school staff member

"One student is so much more confident and her reading has improved dramatically."

Primary school teacher

Schools also told us where the program can improve, including making sure glasses fit well and are worn consistently at school and at home. SSR is working with schools, families and partner optometrists on clearer information for families and practical ways to support consistent wear.

CASE STUDY

Removing barriers to care for a student with complex needs

A student with additional needs, living in out-of-home care, had never visited an optometrist, despite having a noticeable turned eye.

Through a Glasses for Kids school visit, the student was identified as needing further assessment. With the support of their carer, they attended a local partner clinic, where vision issues were identified and glasses prescribed.

Their new glasses were delivered directly to the school, giving the student clearer vision and better access to their learning in the classroom.

For students facing barriers to accessing eye care, bringing services into schools and providing a pathway to local partner clinics can make an important difference.



Schools visited per local government area

293 schools in total

Ararat	2	Greater Geelong	12	Murrindindi	6
Ballarat	16	Greater Shepparton	9	Nillumbik	3
Banyule	2	Hindmarsh	3	Northern Grampians	2
Bass Coast	7	Hobsons Bay	3	Pyrenees	1
Baw Baw	11	Horsham	2	South Gippsland	3
Benalla	4	Hume	8	Southern Grampians	5
Brimbank	21	Indigo	1	Strathbogie	4
Buloke	4	Kingston	1	Swan Hill	3
Campaspe	2	Knox	9	Towong	2
Cardinia	7	Latrobe	10	Wangaratta	5
Casey	6	Loddon	1	Warrnambool	2
Central Goldfields	2	Macedon Ranges	1	Wellington	1
Colac Otway	5	Maroondah	2	West Wimmera	4
Corangamite	9	Melton	8	Whitehorse	1
Darebin	1	Mildura	5	Whittlesea	9
Frankston	6	Mitchell	3	Wodonga	2
Gannawarra	5	Moira	5	Wyndham	5
Glenelg	7	Monash	1	Yarra	1
Golden Plains	1	Moonee Valley	2	Yarra Ranges	5
Greater Bendigo	8	Moorabool	3	Yarriambiack	5
Greater Dandenong	3	Mornington Peninsula	6		

Program partner

The Glasses for Kids program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Department of Education.

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education

Additional support programs

Targeted support for the barriers that stand between students and learning

Alongside the Affordable School Uniform and Glasses for Kids programs, State Schools Relief provides targeted support that helps students communicate, learn with the right technology and get to school. These programs are smaller in scale, but for the students who receive them the difference can be significant.

iPads for communication

414 iPads distributed

The iPad program provides iPads to students in specialist schools who are non-verbal or have complex communication needs for use with communication software. Each device gives a student a way to make choices, express their needs and take part in learning alongside their peers.

In 2025-2026, SSR distributed 395 iPads to students in 45 specialist schools. A Greater Melbourne Foundation grant enabled SSR to provide 19 additional iPads to Bayside Special Developmental School and Yarrabah School.



"By having access to their own iPad for communication, our students are definitely calmer as they are not so frustrated. You have provided them with a voice!"

Assistant principal, metropolitan specialist school

"The iPad has already become such an important tool for her learning and communication. We use it every day, and it will make a real difference to her development and independence."

Parent, metropolitan specialist school

Laptops for learning

707 laptops provided

Laptops are one of the highest-cost items a family faces across a student's education, and many students cannot complete digital schoolwork at home without their own device. SSR provides laptops to secondary students identified by their schools as experiencing financial hardship.

In 2025-2026, SSR provided 707 laptops to students across Victoria. Demand was strong: schools submitted more than 650 applications in the main allocation round, and SSR both utilised an individual needs-based assessment plus a limit per school so that devices could be shared as broadly as possible.

"Thank you so much for the laptop you've provided. It arrived so quickly too. Can't express how grateful we are."

Wellbeing team, metropolitan specialist school

Graphing calculators

2,835 calculators supplied

Graphing calculators are required for senior mathematics and many STEM subjects. Without one, students may have to borrow a device, manage without, or choose a different subject. SSR supplies graphing calculators to secondary students experiencing financial hardship so that cost does not limit their subject choices.

In 2025-2026, SSR supplied 2,835 calculators to students in Victorian government secondary schools.

OneSight vision care

1,443 vouchers distributed

The OneSight vision care program complements Glasses for Kids by providing students of any age, at any Victorian government school, with a voucher for an eye test and prescription glasses at a participating OPSM store. The program is funded and delivered by the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation and OPSM, with support from SSR to identify and engage students unable to afford glasses.

In 2025-2026, SSR distributed 1,443 OneSight vouchers to students in need. Since the program began, it has provided more than 6,000 free pairs of prescription glasses to Victorian government school students.

Travel Passes for Students in Crisis

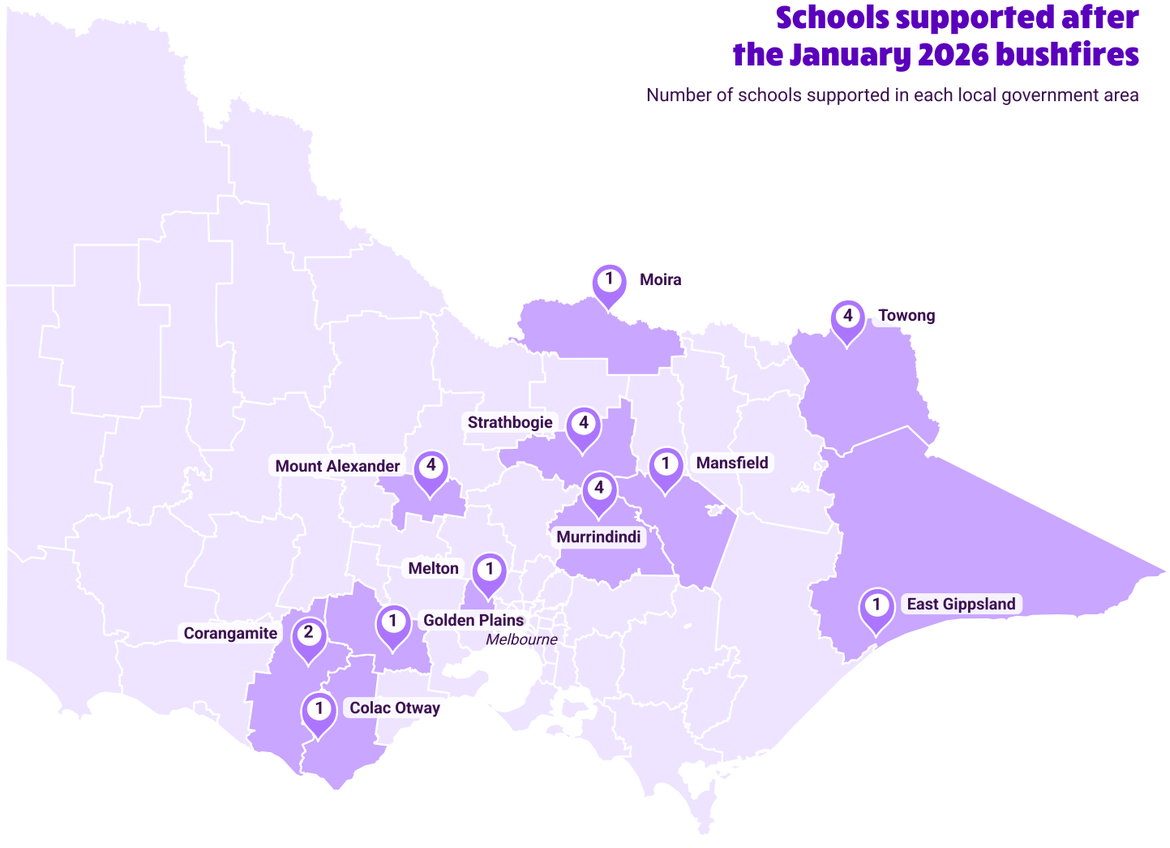
6,800+ travel passes to December 2025

Until December 2025, the Travel Passes for Students in Crisis program provided free 30-day public transport passes to students and carers facing short-term crisis, helping students keep getting to school when stability mattered most. In its final six months, SSR processed more than 1,850 applications and issued more than 6,800 travel passes.

The program concluded as new statewide transport support for students began in January 2026. SSR thanks the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning for its long-standing partnership and the schools that used the program to keep students connected to learning.

Schools supported after the January 2026 bushfires

Number of schools supported in each local government area



Responding when communities need us

Standing with school communities after the January 2026 bushfires

When bushfires affected communities across Victoria in January 2026, schools were at the centre of helping students and families return to routine. Working in concert with the Victorian Department of Education, State Schools Relief moved quickly to make sure affected schools could get the support their students needed, as soon as they needed it.

A dedicated bushfire response was set up within the Affordable School Uniform program, and schools were supported to request whatever material relief each student needed – from uniforms, shoes and socks to school bags, stationery and textbook vouchers. SSR contacted affected schools directly, and followed up with schools that had not yet applied to make sure they knew support was available.

By 30 June 2026, 252 applications supported the bushfire response through the Affordable School Uniform program, for students at 24 schools.

Emergency recovery support delivered via schools

252
applications supported

24
schools supported

1,129
items and vouchers supplied

The response went beyond uniforms. Working with schools, SSR helped source items chosen by schools to support students' wellbeing and recovery, such as sensory resources and play-based learning materials. A donation from Rotary Club of Sorrento, along with the Rotary Clubs of Mt Waverley, Chelsea and Rosebud-Rye was directed to wellbeing items identified by schools, such as sensory items like weighted lap blankets, teddies, silent fidgets and scoop chairs to create a "Calming Corner" and items to facilitate pastoral care group activities.

> **"The uniform items that SSR have supplied have helped ease some of the financial burdens being felt by our fire-impacted families, and have been very gratefully received."**
>
> Wellbeing coordinator, rural primary school

The bushfire response showed what State Schools Relief can leverage through an extraordinary situation: existing trusted relationships with schools, systems that can adapt quickly and logistics infrastructure which reaches all Victorian schools. The lessons from this response are helping SSR prepare for future emergency recovery scenarios where schools are involved.

Bushfire-affected schools supported

COLAC OTWAY
Carlisle River Primary School

CORANGAMITE
Simpson Primary School
Skipton Primary School

EAST GIPPSLAND
Paynesville Primary School

GOLDEN PLAINS
Shelford Primary School

MANSFIELD
Mansfield Primary School

MELTON
Springside West Secondary College

MOIRA
Cobram Secondary College

MOUNT ALEXANDER
Campbells Creek Primary School
Chewton Primary School
Elphinstone Primary School
Harcourt Valley Primary School

MURRINDINDI
Alexandra Primary School
Alexandra Secondary College
Yea High School
Yea Primary School

STRATHBOGIE
Avenel Primary School
Euroa Primary School
Euroa Secondary College
Longwood Primary School

TOWONG
Corryong College
Tallangatta Primary School
Tallangatta Secondary College
Walwa Primary School

EQUAL THREADS

Equal Threads

Quality school wear that powers support for students

Equal Threads is the social enterprise of State Schools Relief. It supplies quality, affordable school uniforms and school wear to schools and families, and every purchase helps fund State Schools Relief's work to remove barriers to education.

In 2025-2026, the social enterprise was renamed Equal Threads and relaunched with its own brand and online store at equalthreads.org.au, which went live alongside the new State Schools Relief website in June 2026. The new name creates a clear distinction between commercial school wear and SSR's support programs, while making the connection to social impact visible to every customer.

Following exceptional demand in 2024-2025 driven by the Victorian Government's one-off School Saving Bonus, the focus in 2025-2026 was on building a sustainable foundation for growth. Throughout 2025-2026, Equal Threads continued to grow its reach and impact across Victorian school communities, supporting 58 government school partners and processing 6,563 sales orders and more than 42,000 items. Eighteen school partnerships renewed and two regional schools were welcomed to the Equal Threads family. Pop-Up Stores, Foundation / Transition Day support and a school-based Click & Collect system were also trialled, helping us explore new ways to bring quality, affordable uniforms closer to families.

Importantly, every purchase has a purpose, with all profits generated by Equal Threads reinvested into State Schools Relief's programs, helping provide essential items to students facing disadvantage who may otherwise go without.

How every purchase helps



6,563
orders from families and schools

58
partner schools

Pop-Up Stores

Bringing uniforms closer to families

Sometimes making a difference is simply about making things easier. This year, Equal Threads trialled Pop-Up Stores within school communities, bringing uniforms closer to families and creating a more convenient and welcoming way to get ready for school. The trials form part of our commitment to finding practical ways to improve access to affordable, quality uniforms and ensure families feel supported throughout their school journey.



Victorian State Schools Spectacular

Equal Threads was proud to support the Victorian State Schools Spectacular, supplying 4,730 garments to around 2,400 students and event crew across the Mass Dance and Mass Choir groups. This included approximately 1,440 dancers and 960 choir members. The partnership reflects what Equal Threads stands for: quality apparel, strong partnerships and opportunities for Victorian students to participate, belong and shine.







Our people and governance

People committed to practical impact

State Schools Relief's achievements are made possible by people working across programs, warehouse and logistics, customer service, retail, finance, technology, marketing and partnerships. In the busiest year in the organisation's history, teams worked across functions to maintain service quality, respond to new needs and keep improving how support is delivered.

New roles strengthened SSR's capacity during the year, including a Schools Partnerships Coordinator and Business Development Manager to build closer relationships with schools both through SSR's support programs and our social enterprise.

Our Board

The Board provides strategic oversight and is responsible for making sure State Schools Relief is well governed, manages its resources responsibly and stays focused on its purpose. Board members during 2025-2026 were:

Susan Mann	Chair
Colin Axup	Deputy Chair
Julie Evans	Chair, Finance, Risk and Audit Committee
Zac Martin	Chair, Governance, Strategy and Culture Committee
Greg Nyilasy	Board member
Amal Saleh-Zada	Board member
Gail McHardy	Board member
Martina Owen	Board member (resigned October 2025)
Michelle Nunn	Board member (resigned May 2026)
Tracey Smith	Board member (joined April 2026)
Debra Gibson	Board member (joined June 2026)

Our leadership team

Andrew Cameron	CEO
Luke Owen	Director of Programs
Allie Don	Director of Operations
Emily Flores	Director of Marketing and Partnerships

Financial performance

Using resources responsibly

The Financial Report has been audited by Nexia Australia, who have advised the report is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Statement of profit or loss	2025-2026 $	2024-2025 $
REVENUE		
Grants	13,938,287	11,702,583
Social enterprise sales	1,096,606	3,411,207
Donations, gifts and in-kind revenue	323,436	892,129
Other income	91,899	130,810
Total revenue	**15,450,228**	**16,136,729**
Cost of goods	(9,367,155)	(10,624,167)
Operating revenue after cost of goods	**6,083,073**	**5,512,562**
EXPENSES		
Employee benefits	(3,571,398)	(3,489,839)
Other operating and administrative expenses	(1,829,914)	(1,579,523)
Total expenses	**(5,401,312)**	**(5,069,362)**
Surplus for the year	**681,761**	**443,200**

Revenue by source, 2025-2026



90.2% Grants

7.1% Social enterprise sales

2.1% Donations, gifts and in-kind

0.6% Other income

Statement of financial position

	30 JUNE 2026 $	30 JUNE 2025 $
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,901,909	942,335
Financial assets	2,018,137	1,941,666
Trade and other receivables	593,083	718,132
Inventories	3,575,011	3,057,549
Other assets	64,011	49,291
Total current assets	**8,152,151**	**6,708,973**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	15	15
Property, plant and equipment	555,621	596,787
Intangible assets	215,589	360,058
Right-of-use assets	–	15,626
Total non-current assets	**771,225**	**972,486**
Total assets	**8,923,376**	**7,681,459**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	3,395,564	2,738,144
Contract liabilities	33,501	219,964
Lease liabilities	–	15,715
Employee benefits	197,279	83,760
Total current liabilities	**3,626,344**	**3,057,583**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	5,375	13,980
Total liabilities	**3,631,719**	**3,071,563**
Net assets	**5,291,657**	**4,609,896**
Equity – retained earnings	5,291,657	4,609,896

Statement of cash flows

	2025-2026 $	2024-2025 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from grants, customers and donors	15,305,410	14,671,094
Payments to suppliers and employees	(14,244,117)	(15,030,824)
Interest received	83,404	130,810
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	**1,144,697**	**(228,920)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(108,563)	(309,357)
Payment for intangible assets	–	(236,617)
Proceeds from / (investment in) term deposits	(76,471)	999,912
Net cash from / (used in) investing activities	**(185,034)**	**453,938**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of lease liabilities	(89)	(47,462)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(89)**	**(47,462)**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**959,574**	**177,556**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	942,335	764,779
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**1,901,909**	**942,335**

Partnerships and supporters

Thank you to everyone who helped students take part in school life with confidence

State Schools Relief's work depends on long-term partnerships. Government funding, philanthropic grants, corporate and community support, in-kind contributions and the commitment of participating schools all help practical support reach students across Victoria.

Principal partner

Victoria State Government | Department of Education

Major supporters

bankfirst invested in you

ASCA Better buying power for schools

Australian Education Union

Philanthropic supporters

- Perpetual Philanthropic Services
- APS Foundation
- The Women of the University Fund Inc.
- Greater Melbourne Foundation (Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation)

In-kind supporters

- Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning
- Premier Waste
- Holding Redlich
- OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation

Other supporters

- Nelson Alexander Foundation
- Anzuk Education
- Rotary Club of Sorrento
- Rotary Club of Rosebud-Rye
- Shopify
- Victorian State Secondary Past Principals' Association
- Association of Retired Principals of Technical Institutions
- Cardinia Shire Council

Life members

Our life members have all contributed significantly and worked tirelessly to advance the mission and vision of our organisation: Barry Smith, Christine Stewart, Tony Ross and David Schmidt.

How you can help

The important work of State Schools Relief relies on your support. All donations of $2 or more are tax deductible. Visit stateschoolsrelief.org.au to donate or to find out how your organisation can partner with us.

Contact us

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Acknowledgement of Country

State Schools Relief respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We extend our respect to Elders past and present.

State Schools Relief