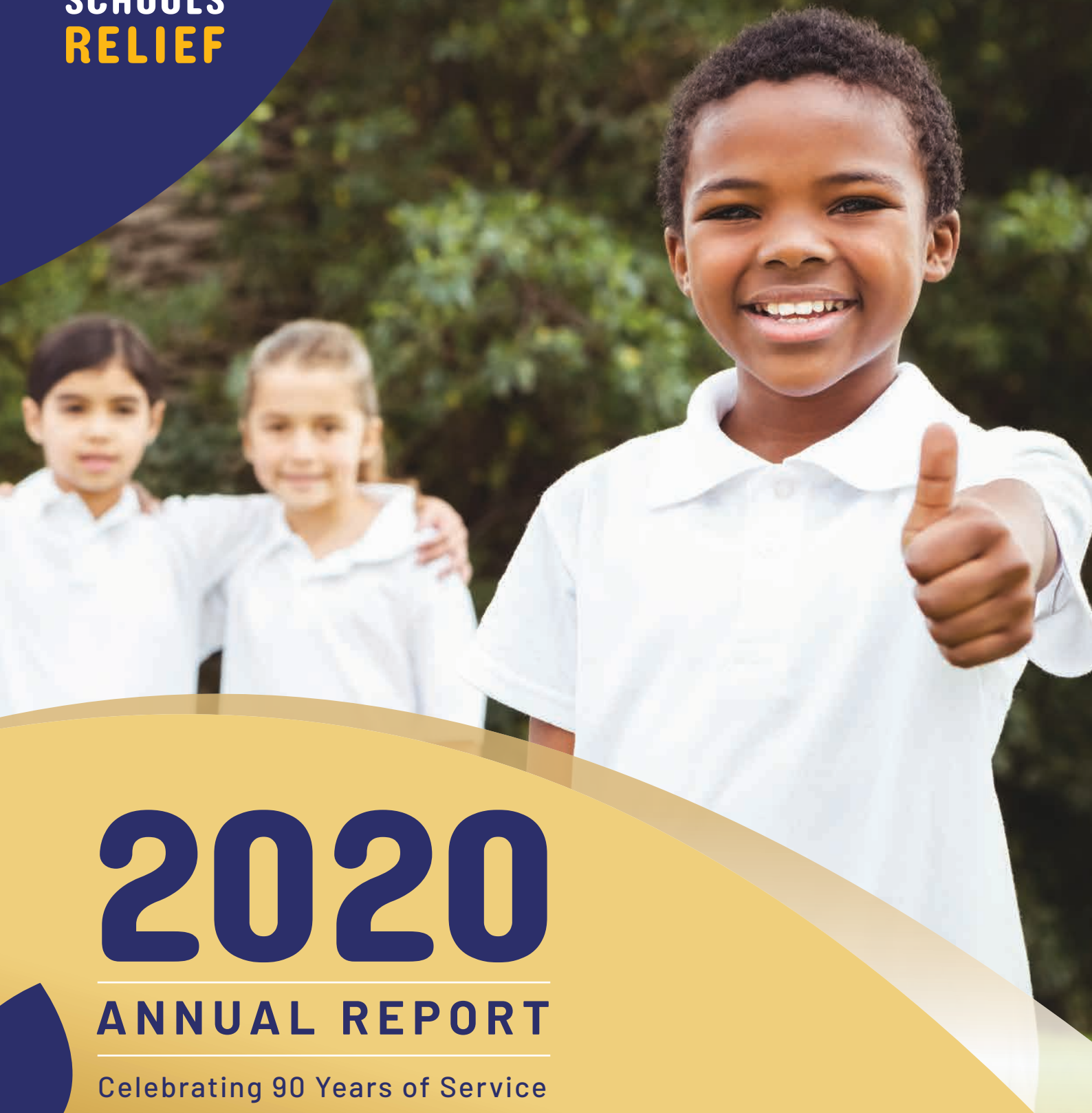




**STATE  
SCHOOLS'  
RELIEF**



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 90 Years of Service

# SSR



**State Schools' Relief** is a not-for-profit organisation that improves the lives of tens of thousands of disadvantaged Victorian students, and their families, each year.

Our simple and practical service ensures that all students can attend school in warmth and comfort with a greater sense of belonging and improved self-esteem, which in turn enhances their educational engagement.

Issues such as poverty, neglect, family illness, abuse and homelessness continue to affect many Victorian families. SSR provides government school students with new uniforms, footwear and educational resources, including learning devices. We work side by side with all Victorian primary, secondary, specialist and language schools to ensure that any students facing hardship have the necessary items they require for school.

## Our Values

### Unity

Working together to support every young person.



### Equality

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 their 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 to Victorian students.

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 tens of thousands of students we help each year, ensures that each young person feels included and valued.**

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

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

### Life Members

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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# President's Report

This year, the year of State Schools' Relief, 90th anniversary, has been a year like no other.

The summer bushfires, that left much of Victoria devastated, followed by the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the introduction of remote learning, has upended State Schools' Relief's business model and brought challenges to our organisation that were difficult to envisage a year ago.

The core business of SSR for the past 90 years has been to provide clothes, shoes and other essential items to enable disadvantaged students to participate in school.

**The support provided to bushfire-affected areas showed SSR fulfilling its charter by working with the Department of Education and Training, local communities and schools to administer Bushfire Relief packages to students impacted by the fires in over 15 Local Government Areas.**

This support was in addition to our core model of assisting disadvantaged students to participate in their schooling, which in the 2019/2020 year increased by 29% over the previous year. This meant that in this period, 70,541 students in state schools received support from SSR.

The community lockdown that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent remote learning model, brought about a paradigm shift for SSR. Instead of supporting children participating in school, we now were faced with how best to support disadvantaged children learning from home.

The Board and senior management decided that the best way to do this was to provide laptops, internet dongles, stationery and art supply packs, study furniture and headphones to enable disadvantaged students to more effectively learn from home.

SSR was overwhelmed with the demand for these items and in a matter of weeks supplied nearly 8,000 items to students across Victoria.

The pandemic and its effects have inevitably impacted all areas of SSR. Operations, Board and Committee meetings have been held by Zoom, our risk management has procedures now incorporating pandemic mitigations whilst our school fundraising and income from uniform sales has substantially decreased.

Our planned public celebration of our 90th anniversary was not able to proceed and nor were planned initiatives such as the creation of a community council and the further development of our social enterprise business, Student's Choice.

The very successful Glasses for Kids program has also not been able to be delivered for most of the school year, however it is planned to resume in Term 4, 2020.

Throughout all this, the Board has continued to be mindful of our responsibilities to both manage and be accountable for government funds in the delivery of our services.

The Board has strengthened our risk compliance and finance functions and as a major capital investment has installed a state-of-the-art accounting and inventory system, Business Central, which provides point in time information on all aspects of our operation.

Our CEO, Sue Karzis, has continued to provide leadership and direction to SSR. Sue's relationship building with key stakeholders is outstanding and her ability to publicise and gain support for the work of SSR is manifested in the credibility that SSR enjoys in the wider community. Sue is very well supported by her team, all of whom have a commitment to providing the best possible service to students, schools and the wider community.

Once again, I extend thanks to my fellow Board members, for their work and for rising to the challenge of meeting the needs of disadvantaged students in a rapidly changing environment.

During the year, long term Board member and a former President, Rommie Redlich, left the Board and was replaced by Kaye Wheatley-Brown. A particular thanks to Rommie for his contribution.

Ralph Francione, our longest ever serving Board member, also retired from the SSR Board earlier this year. Ralph was a former long-term President of SSR and served on the Board for over 30 years. His contribution to SSR has been immense and on behalf of all past and present SSR Board members and supporters a heartfelt thanks to Ralph for his work.

I would also like to welcome Jenny Ballard from Parents Victoria to the Board and thank her predecessor, Lisa Amalfi-Chiera, for her time served.

Our sponsors continue to provide much support to SSR and without them we would not be able to provide support to disadvantaged state school students. Thank you to the Department of Education and Training for its support and confidence, Bank Australia and Bank First together with ASCA (Australian Schools Canteen Association) who are long term supporters, as is the Australian Education Union.

State Schools' Relief, like many other community organisations, faces several significant challenges as we move to a COVID normal world.

We are anticipating a huge increase in demand for the beginning of the 2021 school year due to the changed economic circumstances of many people with school aged children, whilst our fundraising activity has been severely curtailed.

Our capacity to meet demand with available revenue will be a major factor in Board deliberations particularly as we move toward securing funding for the next state government electoral cycle from 2022.

SSR has the logistical and governance capacity to continue to meet school participation and remote learning needs of disadvantaged students.

## Barry Smith

President



“

*In a matter of weeks of the community lockdown being implemented and education turning to remote learning; SSR had supplied nearly 8,000 items consisting of laptops, internet dongles, stationery and art supply packs, study furniture and headphones to disadvantaged students across Victoria to enable a more effective learning from home experience.*

”





# Ambassador's Message

“ I am proud to continue in my role as the Victorian Government Ambassador for State Schools' Relief. ”

What a year this has been! And this year State Schools' Relief celebrates 90 years of service - helping and supporting Victorian families access education without barriers. By supporting Victorian families with uniforms, shoes and educational resources State Schools' Relief is helping make sure that all children, whatever their background or circumstance, can feel a greater sense of self-esteem, pride and dignity at school.

I am immensely grateful for the work of State Schools' Relief and I am delighted that the Victorian Government has been able to support State Schools' Relief in this important work again this year.

Giving every Victorian child the opportunity to reach their full potential is one of the most profound and impactful things we can do. I wish to thank and acknowledge State Schools' Relief for their tireless commitment to this shared goal.

## Sonya Kilkeny MP

State Member for Carrum

State Schools' Relief Ambassador



## Impact of Our Work



"Our school has just over 600 students with many from low socio-economic families. I am continually submitting applications to SSR for items for our needy children.

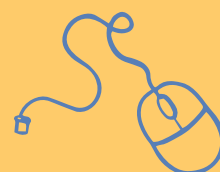
The introduction of MYKI cards for students was a fantastic idea and I have ordered about 15 for some of our children. The cost for children to travel to and from school daily on the bus is close to \$500 each for the year so the MYKI card and top up option was most appreciated by our families.

It is great to be able to order uniform items as for some children it is upsetting not to have the uniform items they would like when their parents can't afford them. I love being able to help families in this way and it is wonderful to see the children being so excited when their SSR parcel arrives.

The recent introduction during COVID-19 of USBs, stationery packs and study furniture was quickly implemented by SSR during a very chaotic and unusual time.

I for one am very grateful for all the assistance available from State Schools' Relief and think everyone there is doing an amazing job. Keep up the great work!"

- Warragul North Primary School



# Creating Value

## Student's Choice

### Our very own brand of uniforms and shoes

A successful method of reducing the cost of our service has been the creation of 'our own' brand of uniforms and school shoes. By working closely with schools to provide our Student's Choice uniform items and shoes where possible, it means that high-quality clothing is supplied which closely resembles the branded items largely used by other students.

There are many benefits to this. It ensures the items received by students are free of charge, there is no parent co-contribution required and crucially this enables more children to benefit from our support.

## Why choose Student's Choice?

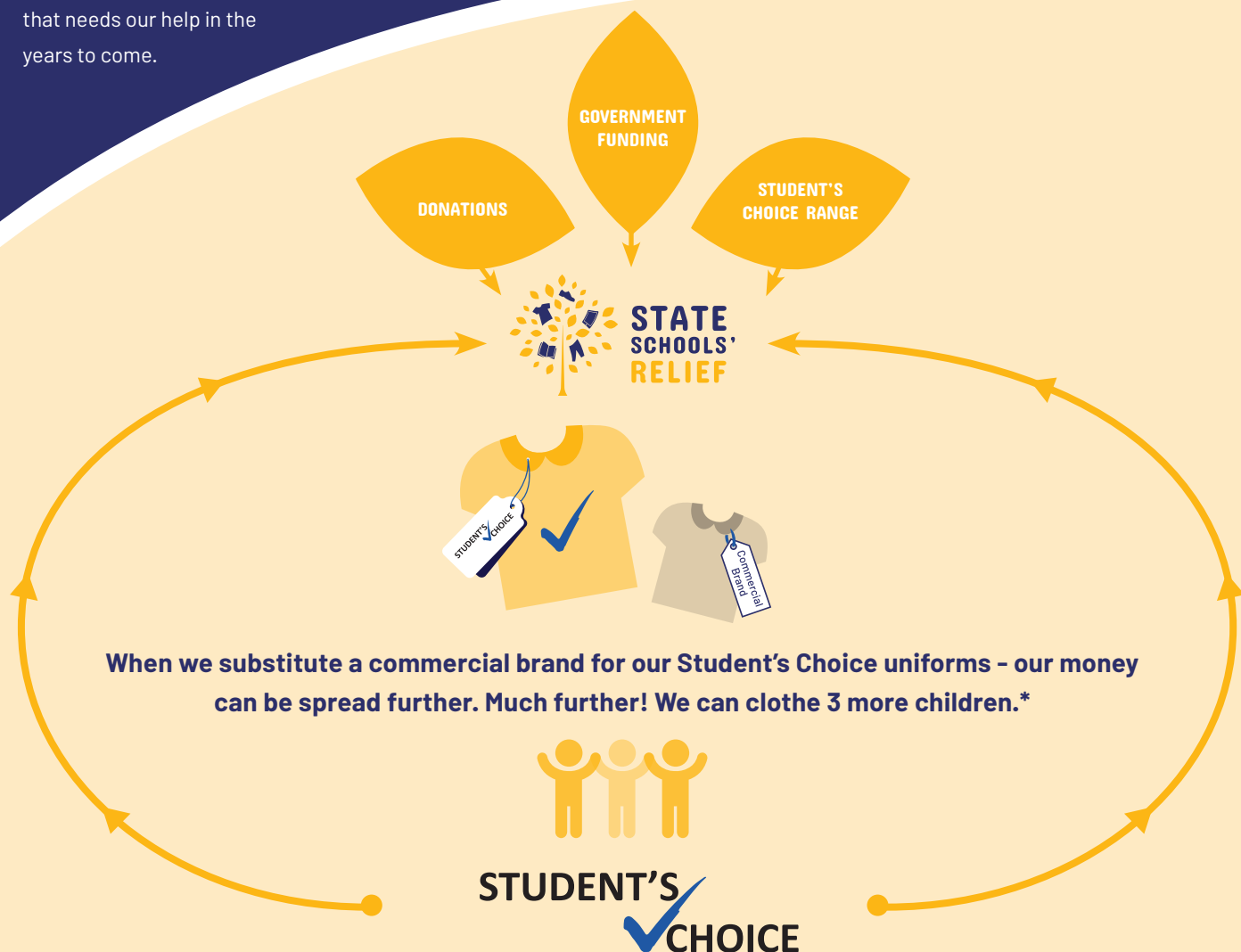
The Student's Choice range is a social enterprise that allows us to continue the work that we do. All money earned from the sale of our Student's Choice label goes straight back into a Victorian child's education.

- The Student's Choice uniform range exists to make sure that every young person can participate with the same pride and dignity as their peers
- Substituting our high-quality, identical products for commercial brands allows SSR to clothe 3 additional students
- The Student's Choice brand also contributes to SSR's sustainability, positioning our organisation to support every child and young person that needs our help in the years to come.

## What's available?

State Schools' Relief can provide everything from underwear, socks and singlets, to shoes, hats and swimwear. As well as textbooks and calculators for class, we can help to create an environment of inclusion and dignity for all Victorian state school students.

It is our mission to make sure that no child is left behind and that the pathway to education remains open for everyone.



\* For the cost of clothing one child in commercially branded items, we can clothe three kids in Student's Choice.

# CEO Report

**As I reflect on the past year, it is wonderful to recognise that State Schools' Relief (SSR) has marked its 90th year. The organisation was started in 1930, during The Great Depression, by a group of teachers to assist students who were not attending school due to lack of resources including food, uniforms and shoes.**

At the time, those visionary teachers recognised that enabling those children and young people to access education was vital to ensure a better future and a pathway out of poverty.

Ninety years on, the mission and vision of SSR remains the same and the demand for our services has never been higher.

In the space of one year we have supported families ravaged by bushfires, and disadvantaged students who transitioned to remote learning during the pandemic.

One constant remains – SSR exists to support vulnerable children and young people to engage with education so that they can access their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances and we hope to continue this mission for the next 90 years.

The 2019/20 financial year proved to be another year of exponential growth for SSR. In total, we assisted 70,541 students with school uniforms, shoes and other educational items such as learning devices, graphing calculators and stationery packs. The total number of applications grew by 29% over the previous year and we were able to manage this steep increase in demand with the support of our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the applications were processed promptly and efficiently. In Victoria, 85% of all state schools utilised our services, reflecting the important role that SSR fulfils state-wide. Over 220,000 items were provided to students in need, at a cost of over \$8.7m.

Early in the year, we, along with all Victorians, were shocked by the devastating bushfires that ravaged our country and we worked alongside the Department of Education and Training to administer Bushfire Relief packages to students impacted in over 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Victoria. The packages were aimed at assisting students return to school with the items which they required in order to re-engage with their learning as soon as possible.

Families were eligible for a support package if they had been impacted by the loss of their family home, or loss of income through volunteering to fight bushfires, or loss of livelihood as a result of the bushfires. Support packages included vouchers for uniform items, school shoes, books and stationery, learning devices and other essential items for school.

By partnering with the state government, SSR was able to support 3,641 local families and help to address the most immediate educational priorities of the fire-affected communities. Department of Education and Training and SSR will continue the support of students and their families as they navigate the road to recovery.

**With the generous support of UNICEF Australia, State Schools' Relief was also able to provide learning devices to students in the bushfire affected regions. In the bushfire-affected areas, 153 students from 20 schools in eight of the affected LGAs were provided with iPads and laptops to commence the school year with a learning device required for education. We worked closely with school principals and staff to ensure that our support was both timely and accessible.**





As we completed our support to fire-affected areas, COVID-19 presented itself, with many implications for students from challenging backgrounds. As an organisation, SSR had to pivot quickly in order to help those who needed it the most. That meant sourcing and distributing laptops, internet dongles, study packages consisting of a desk and chair plus headphones and stationery packs to assist children who transitioned to a remote learning model.

Whilst inundated with demand for these items, SSR was able to supply over 7,980 items in a matter of weeks.

SSR is grateful for the ongoing support received from the state government, which has enabled the organisation to impact 85% of Victorian state schools. The long-standing support of the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Australian Education Union, Bank First, ASCA, the Victorian Principals Association, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals, ANZUK Education and the William Angliss Charitable Fund have contributed to the growth and success of SSR over the last year. The support of our major fundraising partners, Gandel Philanthropy and Equity Trustees and the in-kind support provided by Holding Redlich cannot be underestimated.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of SSR for their support as we undertook the important steps associated with pivoting during the pandemic to ensure that those who needed the support received it. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the support of the President, Barry Smith, who has provided strategic direction in a year full of change and unprecedented challenges.

As we look forward to 2021, SSR will prepare to scale up in order to provide assistance to the many families who will require support post-pandemic. Just as we have done for the last 90 years, we will ensure that children and young people can attend school with the necessary resources to engage with education and reach their full potential.

## Sue Karzis

Chief Executive Officer



# Facts & Figures



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

2015

Applications	12,231
No. of Items	47,069
Value	\$1,403,317

2016

Applications	38,423
No. of Items	144,742
Value	\$5,470,729

2017

Applications	45,785
No. of Items	160,691
Value	\$5,481,980

2018

Applications	56,142
No. of Items	177,691
Value	\$5,067,788

2019

Applications	56,622
No. of Items	210,758
Value	\$6,336,549

2020

Applications	70,541
No. of Items	220,417
Value	\$8,743,240



In 2019/2020, we assisted **70,541** underprivileged Victorian state school students.

Item	No. of Items
Bathers	570
Briefs	11,760
Bushfire Relief Vouchers	6,501
Calculators	450
Dresses	9,230
Hand Sanitiser	1,004
Hats	3,818
Jackets/Vests	13,833
Jumpers/Cardigans	3,617
Myki Cards	1,118
Other	2,554
Pants	27,686
Parker/Raincoat	1,817
Remote Learning Chair/Desk	1,967
Remote Learning Internet Dongle	3,292
Remote Learning Laptops	933
School Bags	1,505
Shirts/T-Shirts	45,967
Shoes	28,510
Shorts	17,816
Singlets	2,161
Skirts	2,691
Socks & Tights	15,691
Stationery Packs	2,882
Text Books	1,292
Ties	525
Tops/Windcheaters	10,809
Work Boots	418
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>220,417</b>



Shirts, Tops, Jackets  
and Shoes make up  
**100,000 items**

Socks, briefs and  
singlets make up over  
**29,000 items**



## Circumstances of our help: Charity vs CSEF\*

\*CSEF = Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Charity vs CSEF	No. of Students	No. of Items
Charity	53,466	171,498
CSEF	17,075	48,919

**Utilisation of our services:** 75 x P-12 schools, 929 x Primary schools, 240 x Secondary schools and 79 x Specialist/Language schools. **85% of Victorian state schools were assisted in 2019/2020, that's 1,323 schools!**

**Average cost of  
support per child**

**\$124**

**Average number  
of items per app**

**3**

**Fundraising**

174 schools donated  
to SSR in 2019/2020,  
**totaling \$121,116**



# THE YEAR OF

## 1943 - 1944

**“No application for help for a necessitous case,  
that is supported by a head teacher, was refused”**

### Bushfires

The summer of 1943-44 will long be remembered because of the disastrous bush fires in Victoria. There was a great loss of valuable lives in addition to forests, farm lands, pastures and live stock. Many persons suffered severely from burns, and, in a number of cases, families were bereft of the bread-winner. Fifteen school buildings and three teachers' residences were reduced to ashes. The officers of the State Schools' Relief Committee very speedily got in touch with Head Teachers, local committees, and citizens in the burnt-out areas and relief was quickly provided. Supplies of clothing, footwear and temporary school aids were distributed to the unfortunate child victims as often, and as soon, as the Head Teacher made application. Some of the large rural schools, such as Morwell Bridge and Derrinallum, required large quantities of relief goods.



### Clothing

As in former years, large quantities of new and durable clothing have been issued as well of hundreds of serviceable secondhand articles. Of the two thousand off new garments supplied, nearly half went to bushfire victims.

### Footwear

In this department, the exigencies of the war have made it difficult at times to maintain stocks. Buying has been keen, however, and we are now in quite a good position. During the year £356 was spent on the purchase of boots and shoes.

### Milk

For the 13th year in succession the S.S.R.C. accepted the responsibility of administering the Government grant for the supply of milk to undernourished children in State Schools in the Metropolitan area. During the winter months approximately 3000 children in 44 schools received a daily cup of milk. As usual, the whole of the administrative costs were borne by the Committee, with the result that the children benefited to the full amount of the £917 made available by the Treasurer of the State of Victoria.

### Finance

Contributions flow in freely from our supporters – the teachers and pupils from our schools. The creation of the Social Service League organisation in our schools has been very largely our salvation. It continues to act as our reservoir. We thank the officers and members of this splendid body for their continued co-operation and active support. The cost of administration of our funds is approximately 1 per cent of the total income.



# Impact of Our Work

**“I just want to pass on our appreciation for the support that is being provided through SSR.”**

We are still part of that generation of teachers who remember when our job was to almost shield SSR from having too many requests for help on their small budget. We still maintain a second-hand uniform stock to help clothe students in need and have used that for many years to try not put too much onto SSR. It was so refreshing to meet with Sharon last week and hear about all the support that is available and the healthy funding in place.

In the past few weeks I have (aside from many, many CSEF applications) provided books and uniform for a number of refugee students. We invited the parents to come up and meet with us, with our interpreter and had a conversation around the various costs and were able to offer them some uniforms through SSR. The benefit was not just the financial pressure it removed from them, but it also started to build our relationship with them so we can continue to better support their child's education.

Some of the other circumstances involve:

- a dozen or more Grade 6 parents who were overwhelmed by the costs of getting their kids to high school next year,
- a parent this morning whose partner has been out of work for 12 months while receiving chemotherapy,
- a single parent who is looking after the three children of his ex, after DHHS removed them from her, a good man who has taken on her kids as his own but without the \$\$ to make ends meet.

Everyday over the past week we have had a family in similar need, stressed about starting back at school next year and we have been able to significantly reduce the pressure they are under through your support.

**- Mooroolbark College**



**“What an amazing job you did for disadvantaged and disengaged students ensuring they had the tools they needed to successfully access school from their home locations.”**

Many of our sites were assisted by State Schools' Relief and your process was efficient and timely and made our job so much easier. We are very grateful for the help you were able to offer our students and the relief on their, and their parents' faces when they came in to pick up their supplies was obvious. State Schools' Relief assisted us to remove the financial barriers that so many of our students were facing during this time.

Many thanks to you and your staff, your contribution to the education system during this time was significant.

**- Oakwood School**





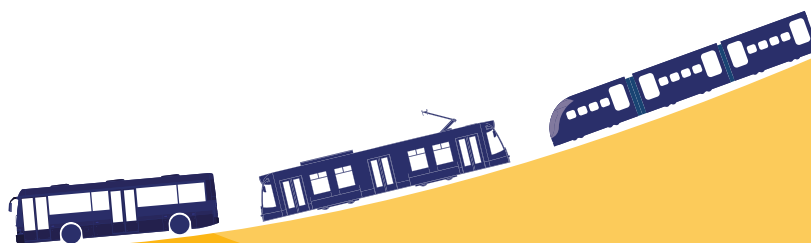
# Myki Program

In late 2019, State Schools' Relief launched a pilot program, 'Your Key' Student Access Initiative, aimed at assisting students experiencing a significant barrier to education – the ability to safely travel to and from school with a valid myki card.

The 'Your Key' Student Access Initiative was delivered in two parts. Students each received a concession myki card, with a \$97 balance. Once card balances were low, students and staff completed a survey to assess the educational and wellbeing outcomes prior to authorising two x \$100 top up applications. A final evaluation will take place at the conclusion of the program.

State Schools' Relief and Equity Trustees shared a desire to create effective programs that tackle the root causes of inequity and deliver a clear and positive community benefit. This program represented a direct and powerful intervention to remove an obstacle, by alleviating potential PTV fines thus allowing a greater attendance rate and reduced financial pressure on families

At State Schools' Relief we recognised this need and wanted to make a difference in the lives of these children and young people.



## Outcomes

With the generous support of our major funding partner Equity Trustees, and The William Angliss Charitable Fund, the 'Your Key' Student Access Initiative reached 180 schools across Victoria and provided 1,208 myki cards to students in need. The main requests for travel assistance cited financial hardship as well as travel distance, family violence, homelessness, illness and /or death in the family, independent living and single parent families, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

**Of the 1,208 students who received myki cards**

**954**

(that's 79%)

**were in metropolitan Melbourne**



**254**

(that's 21%)

**were in regional Victoria**



## The number of applications and the type of schools were:



Due to the unprecedented experiences COVID-19 has brought with it, coupled with remote learning, the myki top-up program will be extended into 2021 to further support students with the return to onsite learning. Of the 216 surveys received by vulnerable students (and staff) who remained onsite throughout COVID-19 restrictions, 172 responses specified an improvement in school attendance, 131 saw increased engagement in class and 120 confirmed that interaction with peers and teachers had improved.

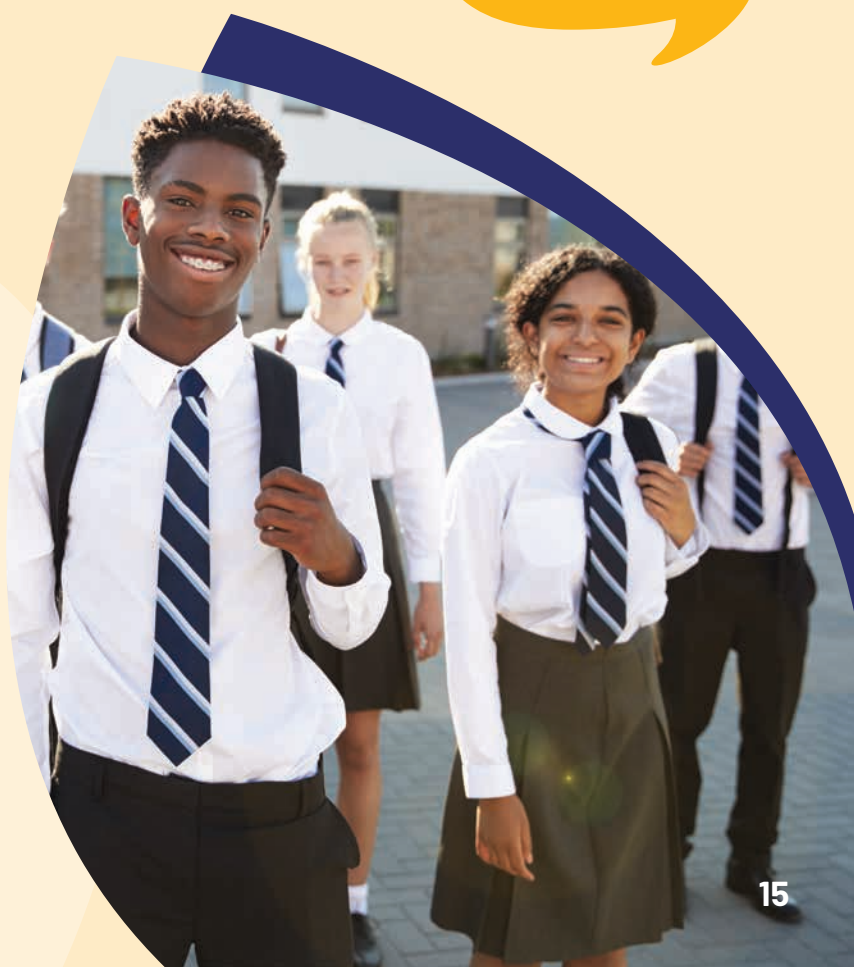
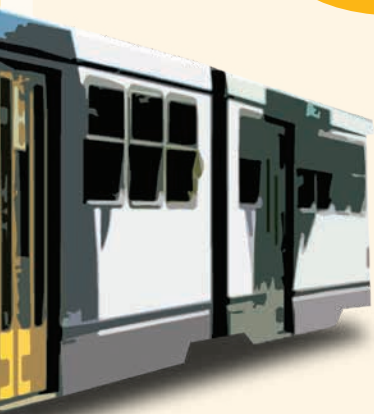
**Prior to COVID-19 and remote learning, one of the major barriers to accessing education for students was the ability to safely travel to and from school. Below are a few stories we have received from schools that have requested a myki card on behalf of their students.**

Student is exposed to AOD (alcohol and other drug use) and negligent parenting and is currently homeless/couch surfing.

Student had to move to Melton South when the government closed their housing flats in South Yarra. He travels from Melton to Hawthorn every day to complete his VCE. His family struggles to afford a myki and works to support his school-based expenses.

Student is living independently and had recently had all her casual shifts cancelled due to Corona virus.

Student is attending language school in the CBD and unable to afford to travel there. Student is from refugee background, and both parents are jobless at this stage.



## Myki Program continued

Student resides in a single parent family with her father. Father reported that he has had parenting payments suspended and has not been paid for the past 2 weeks. Father said that student is not attending school because he didn't want to send her to school with no food.

Student travels on public transport to get to school as Mum is legally blind.

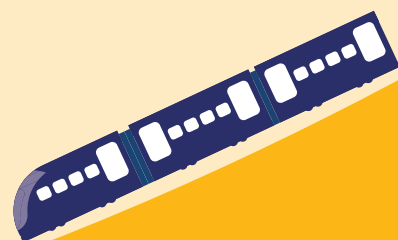
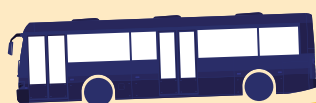
Student is a young carer for her mother who has early-onset dementia and breast cancer. She experiences significant financial hardship and would greatly benefit from a Myki card to travel to Hawthorn and Richmond (from Broadmeadows) for her work and TAFE placements for VCAL.

Student's stepmother asked him to leave the family and not return. He is currently staying with an older sibling, but this is not permanent as he has a family of his own. He is waking up at 6am and travelling from Werribee to get to school on time.

Student is just about to move into community housing living independently. She will be living further away from school and needs to catch the bus every day to school so a Myki card would be very helpful for her.

Student misses a lot of schooling due to family financial hardship. We are in the process of getting him back to school but need assistance.

Student's mum passed away tragically. He has been moved around and now living with dad who is experiencing financial hardship. Student travels for work placement and would benefit from this assistance.



Student and his father catch the bus every day to bring student to school. Dad then returns in the afternoon to pick student up. They have 6 trips - 2 for the student and 4 for the father - so that student can attend school.

Student is studying year 11 VCAL. As a part of her certificate she is enrolled in Certificate 3 Screen and Media - web animation as her VET course. To attend this, she travels once a week via train to a TAFE campus located over 50kms away (one way). Her mother does not work, receives Centrelink benefits and is on a low-income health care card. Without financial support to attend her VET course, she would be unable to continue attending.

This student has moved to Ferntree Gully with her mum and it takes 4 hours each way by public transport to get to Rosebud Secondary College. She is in year 12 and doesn't want to change schools as it could affect her outcomes.

Student was kicked out of home last year and was residing in a youth refuge. He has now been placed in a share house in Blackburn. Student is on Centrelink and works part-time. He travels from Blackburn to school in Hallam everyday via public transport.

New student to Hallam this year. Student resides in Mount Waverley and is finding it difficult to afford public transport to school. His attendance has been very low so far. Resides with his mother who is a single parent. Student has a part-time job to support him and his mother.

Student is currently completing year 11 VCAL. As part of his VCAL certificate he is enrolled in cert 2 in warehouse operations and needs to travel via train twice a week to attend. His father is on a disability pension and mother does not work. The family have a health care card. Without financial support student will struggle to be able to maintain his attendance over the year.

Extremely difficult circumstances. This student is couch surfing between extended family and older siblings. No disposable income. Doesn't come to school often due to not having money for transport.





# Bushfire Relief

## Getting Kids Back to School

State Schools' Relief's programs are designed for financially disadvantaged families. Short term crisis and long-term chronic need are the primary qualifying criteria for support, including natural disasters. The unprecedented bushfire and extreme weather events of the 2019/2020 summer devastated communities, families, students and schools. In response, State Schools' Relief and the Department of Education and Training (DET) shared a vision to improve the outcomes for families through the 'Getting Kids Back to School' Bushfire Relief support packages, available for students from Prep to Year 12.

Government funding was directed to State Schools' Relief for the delivery of financial relief packages for schools in bushfire-affected Local Government Areas (LGAs). LGAs included Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Indigo, Mansfield, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington, and Wodonga. East Gippsland and Alpine regions were significantly affected, with 3,104 support packages distributed to students.

Students were eligible for a support package if their families had been impacted by the loss of their family home, and/or loss of income through volunteering to fight bushfires and/or loss of livelihood/income caused by the bushfires. Support packages included vouchers for uniform items, school shoes, books and stationery, learning devices and other essential items for school.

**Government funding assisted State Schools' Relief to meet the most urgent needs of 3,641 local families and address the issue of students being able to return to school.**

A total of 43 students who were assisted lost their family home, 32 students' families were volunteer firefighters, 791 students required remote learning support and 2,775 students' families lost income, livelihoods and experienced significant financial hardship as a result of the bushfires.

## UNICEF Australia

State Schools' Relief was selected by UNICEF Australia to implement the 'Back to Schools' package based on our experience in the provision of support to students in Victoria. The funds were used to provide learning devices to bushfire affected students in rural and remote areas who required them to return to school in 2020.

Rural and remote LGAs included Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Indigo, Mansfield, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington, and Wodonga. Of the 15 bushfire-affected areas, 153 students from 20 schools in eight of the affected LGAs were provided with iPads and laptops to commence the school year.

**unicef**   
AUSTRALIA  
for every child

**VICTORIA**  
State Government

Education  
and Training







The Glasses for Kids program provides initial vision screening and if required, further testing and the provision of glasses to all participating Prep to grade 3 students in some of the most disadvantaged areas across Victoria. The program aims to remove vision impairment as a potential barrier to educational engagement by ensuring that children from disadvantaged families are supported to fully participate in education from their early years.

Beginning in 2020, State Schools' Relief is expecting to visit 340 schools over the next 4 years in the most disadvantaged areas of Victoria and target more than 40,000 students in Prep to grade 3 for vision screening. Based on the previous rates for program participation and provision of glasses, it is anticipated that over 60% of targeted students will participate in the second iteration of this program.

**The program's service delivery began in Term 1, 2020 with 1,335 students participating from 15 schools across Brimbank Melton, North Eastern and Southern Melbourne. 203 students were provided with glasses that will help to remove vision impairment as a potential barrier to educational engagement.**

As a consequence of COVID-19 and the restrictions implemented by the Victorian Government, service delivery of the program ceased in Term 2, 2020. The program is due to resume in Term 4, 2020 with additional protocols necessary to comply with the public health requirements once students return to school for onsite learning.

*"What a wonderful program and how pleasing it was that so many of our students and their families decided to access this amazing initiative. The opticians, technicians and their wonderful support staff did an awesome job with our students. I can't wait to see our many students who qualified, wearing their brand new, brightly coloured glasses to school. A big thank you to Glasses for Kids".*

Principal, Keysborough Primary School

#### Feedback

"Thanks a lot for such a big help.  
Thanks again for making my life less stressful."

"The kids and teachers are loving the glasses"

"A great opportunity for the school to support families  
ensuring students have optimal eye health."



# Remote Learning

With the COVID-19 pandemic reaching Australia's shores, a drastic change to learning occurred and it highlighted the stark and polarising digital divide between students. A big issue many children, families and schools faced was the rapid transition to remote learning. At State Schools' Relief, we were inundated with requests for assistance. Multiple families had several children all trying to share one device. Often, this was using data from a mobile phone. For many students, this meant the difference between being able to participate in remote learning or not.

As COVID-19 began to take full effect, we were able to pivot our organisational model to assist as many disadvantaged students as possible with 'remote learning' packages - consisting of laptops, internet USBs, furniture and stationery packs, ensuring that those students that would otherwise be left behind had the equipment they required to partake in their schooling.

Whilst sourcing these items in a time of high demand proved challenging, our team managed to find stock of these items and ship them out in a timely manner. We are pleased to report that the following items were supplied to students in need during Term 2, 2020.



**933**

**Laptops**



**3,292**

**Internet**  
(USB Dongles)



**983**

**Study Packs**  
(Desk & Chair)



**2,882**

**Stationery Packs**



### Thanks again for your fabulous work!

Thank you to all the workers and volunteers at State Schools' Relief. Yarraman Oaks Primary School truly appreciates the sensational work you do to further support and care for our school community. We acknowledge that you are often the "unseen" hands and feet, but as a school community – we see you and thank you for your professionalism and care!! Personally, I wish to thank you for the advice and friendly help you always give me when I ring and trouble you.

Thanks again for your fabulous work, attitude and awesomeness! You are truly stars!

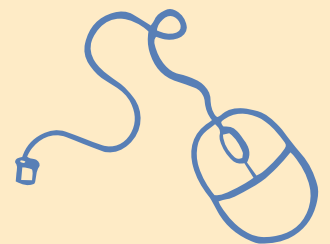
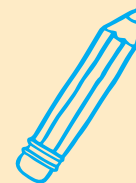
- Yarraman Oaks Primary School

### My girls can now be a part of online learning

I am writing today to say a massive THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart and that I am truly grateful for the help you have given to the school, to then be able to help my family. Brand new laptops and stationery packs, desk and chairs, this has relieved so much pressure for me as a single mother trying to work and home school with little communication with teachers at this crazy time due to no devices.

My girls can now be a part of online learning and can now communicate with the teachers anytime they need. And they are actually getting work done. Thank you I appreciate everything you guys do for our children and thank you again.

- Parent



# Impact of Our Work

## Thank you so much

Thank you so much for the generous relief you provide our families at Montmorency Secondary College. The senior students clutched their Casio Calculators and a couple were in tears. One student said, "You don't understand how much this means to me and my family" It has been like a gift to them.

The work boots have been gratefully received. Families stated they were starting to worry about how to find the extra clothing items for the VET courses and support for the boots makes a difference. I have found it so easy to support the students because you are all so supportive and go above and beyond. This may sound gushy, but it is so easy when you are all making such a difference.

All the very best.

- Montmorency Secondary College



## Thank you for making life easier

Just a quick message for you and your team to say thank you for all your hard work and efforts in such challenging times. We had a student in tears upon receiving a laptop device. This particular student was operating on a phone with a broken screen and using ten dollars of phone credit daily to complete tasks on google classroom. This student's gratitude extended to stating "are there others who need a device more, I'm ok using my phone". Thank you for making life easier for these students, your efforts definitely don't go unnoticed.

- Manor Lakes P-12 College



## It has been like gold!

I just wanted to take the time to thank you for the outstanding support SSR has been for our college community at this difficult time. Your commitment to fulfilling the technology needs of our students has made a huge difference to the level at which they have been able to engage in their learning. Each of the 27 devices and 15 dongles which you have provided to our students has been like gold to them and us.

Thank you once again.

- Echuca College

## Thanks team SSR

You have done an amazing job to support our most vulnerable students and families during this crisis.

I have made public acknowledgment of your contribution in many forums. Hoping we will be able to "pay back" some of your kindness and support through some fundraising next term. Thank you and well done!

- Alkira Secondary College



# From the staff and students... thank you all

I would personally like to thank you all for your support of our students here at Ararat College. We have relied on the support of the SSR well before the onset of this horrific pandemic, but now more than any other time we have truly appreciated the fact that SSR has our backs. Students have been able to access resources that have enabled them to have continuity of learning that simply would have not been possible without your support. So, from the AC staff and students, thank you all.

- Ararat College

## What a difference your organisation makes to people's lives

Thank you to all the people who work at State Schools' Relief. It is a wonderful organisation and you provide an outstanding service to families. I have used SSR for needy families in schools I have worked in and I know what a difference your organisation makes to people's lives.

My school always does a fundraising activity each year so we can donate the funds to your organisation.

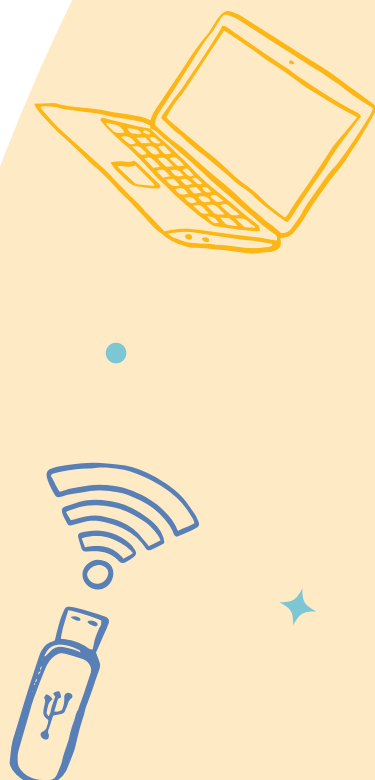
Thank you again for all that you do.

- Croydon Hills Primary School

## You have made a huge difference

Hello, my two daughters attend Westernport Secondary school. I am a single mother of three. I would never have asked for anything like this! Honestly, you guys have made a huge, huge difference to our lives. We had the best day of home schooling today! Mum didn't have to be the teacher, thanks to you!

- Parent





# Impact of Our Work

## Your support for this family was outstanding

As a passionate financial supporter of State Schools' Relief can I just pass on my warm wishes to you all for the outstanding work you have undertaken these past few months. At our school you have provided support for a range of students' needs with home learning which the families have certainly appreciated!

Then in the past week we tragically lost one of our parents through a house fire. The family lost everything. Your support for this family was outstanding and the look on the children's faces when I took around full replacement uniforms was a wonderful sight. Thank you!!!

I think amongst the teaching staff they have a further appreciation for SSR.

**- Pearcedale Primary**



## Your staff have done an amazing job!

On behalf of the Principal, Assistant Principal, myself and all staff, we would like to acknowledge the effort and workload that must have gone into supplying our school with the students' internet USBs arriving at our school so promptly within six days of lodging the application.

Every one of our sixteen students that I ordered a USB for, received one. We appreciate receiving the USBs for our students to enable them to continue their remote learning. Your staff have done an amazing job considering how many schools would have made applications. Once again, thank you.

**- Irymple Primary School**



**“ We just wanted to let you know what a great service that has been afforded to our less fortunate students, who are normally unable to purchase calculators and textbooks. ”**

We are a very big school with more than 2,700 students, so this program was responded to most favourably. Most students who were given the two text books and calculators have agreed to pass the books and calculators onto the future students of their current year levels, we are encouraging of the “Pay it Forward” idea, it makes everyone feel good. Some of our students have never had textbooks and to be able to have at least two of their own was amazing and very rewarding. It has made such a difference.

I will give you an example of what this has done for one of our students: Sally\* is in year 11 and is a lovely girl from a refugee family. She came to me and said she cannot do maths, as she could not afford the calculator and text books, I asked her not to change her subject until I asked and received approval from State Schools’ Relief. She is doing so well, and I have never seen such a happy and grateful smile.

We are beyond grateful to you and all of the staff there, we always feel fully supported and on a personal note, you all have been patient, professional and above all kind. Our Student Leadership was organising a whole school fundraiser for SSR but of course, it is on hold until 2021.

Keep doing an amazing job.

**- Mount Ridley P-12 College**

*\*Name changed for privacy*



## Thank you for all your help

I would personally like to thank you for all your help to our students while in remote learning. You have enabled us to give so many students internet and spaces to learn and school equipment, while in remote learning.

I personally rang a mum yesterday afternoon to tell her that her daughter’s desk will arrive this morning, she was in tears on the phone and so thankful that her daughter will finally have her own space for learning.

**- Seymour College**

# Our Board Members

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



## Barbara Laidlaw

M.E.P.A, B.Ed (Arts/Lib secondary), A.L.A.A. Represents the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals (VASSP). Barbara is Principal of Mullauna College Mitcham, and has had diverse career opportunities across 11 rural and metropolitan secondary colleges with enrolments of between 280 and 1550 students. Barbara is also a General Representative on the State Committee for VASSP.



## Barry Smith, President

B.A, Dip. Ed, GAICD. Elected member.

Barry has had a varied career as a teacher, teacher union official, government adviser and business owner.



## Christine Stewart, Vice President

B.A., Dip. Ed. Represents Australian Education Union (Secondary).

Christine was a secondary teacher for over 20 years, including roles as Student Welfare Coordinator. Christine also held the role of deputy secretary at the AEU for 12 years and served as a director of VicSuper for over 10 years.



## Cheryle Osborne

PhD, MEPA, MEPI, B Ed Dip. Teach (Primary) Represents the Victorian Principals Association (VPA)

Cheryle has over 35 years' experience in Victorian Government schools and is currently Principal of Aspendale Gardens Primary School. Cheryle has been a member of the VPA Board member for the past 14 years.



## Esther Wood

T.P.T.C.; B. Ed, Grad Dip. Special Education. Elected member.

Member of the of the Victorian Principals' Association for over 20 years, Board member of the VPA and member of Principal Class for 25 years. Recipient of Principal of the Year Award 2014, Medal of the Order of Australia 2015. Currently Principal of Burwood Heights Primary School and Kindergarten.



## Jenny Ballard

Represents Parents Victoria.

Jenny joined the State Schools' Relief Board in June 2020. She currently serves as a Mount Erin College Board member and is in her 3rd year as President.

Jenny is also an Executive member of Parents Victoria and a past serving member of kindergarten and primary school committees. She has been an active participant in her children's educational journeys for many years and is extremely passionate about family engagement in learning - and in establishing a strong, equitable, inclusive connection between students, families and schools.



## John Hurley

B.A. Commerce, B. Ed, Certificate Counselling & Psychotherapy. Elected member.

Principal for 33 years in State Schools, working across 14 different schools and is currently the Principal of Thomas Mitchell Primary School in Endeavour Hills, a position he has held for 30 years.



## Kaye Wheatley-Brown

BBus (Accy), AGIA ACG (CS, CGP). Elected member

Kaye is currently the Executive Manager, Legal, Risk & Compliance and Company Secretary at legalsuper. She commenced her career at the Insurance and Superannuation Commission (now APRA) and has since gained broad experience in the finance sector including as an Associate Director in the audit and advisory team with KPMG, and senior roles in governance, risk and compliance with Mercer and VicSuper before joining legalsuper in 2017.



## Maria Shearn

M. Student Welfare, Grad Dip. Multicultural Education, Dip. Ed. Represents Australian Education Union (Primary).

Maria has over 30 years' experience in Victorian Government schools and is currently the Principal at East Bentleigh Primary School. Maria has been an AEU member for 30 years and is passionate about inclusive education.



## Robyn Wilson

D. Bus. Admin. Represents Business Managers Victoria.

Robyn has worked for 20 years as a business manager.



## Susan Mann

B.A., Dip. Ed., GAICD. Elected member.

Susan has worked in education in Victoria, nationally and internationally, as a secondary teacher, teacher educator, policy analyst and senior administrator for over 40 years. Over the last 20 years, she has developed extensive experience in managing not-for-profit companies owned by the Australian Ministers for Education, as Chief Operating Officer of the Learning Federation and Chief Executive Officer of Curriculum Corporation and its successor, Education Services Australia.



## Tony Ross

M. Ed. Admin, Dip. Ed. Elected member.

Tony has held many senior positions in education, is a Board member of Cardinia Environmental coalition, Vice President of Pakenham Living Learning Centre, Australian Committee President of Balay Children's Refuge in the Philippines and an Associate of Monash Faculty of Education.



## Wilma Culton

B. Ed, M. Ed. Elected member.

Currently Principal of Serpell Primary School in Templestowe. Special interest in International Education, International Standards and Accreditation of Schools with a strong focus on development of students with a positive contribution as global citizens.

Member	Member Since	Status	Meetings Attended
Barbara Laidlaw	April 2019	Current	8 out of 8
Barry Smith	September 2011	Current	7 out of 8
Cheryle Osborne	February 2016	Current	7 out of 8
Christine Stewart	February 2010	Current	6 out of 8
Esther Wood	March 2009	Current	7 out of 8
Jenny Ballard	May 2020	Current	1 out of 8*
John Hurley	August 2007	Current	8 out of 8
Kaye Wheatley-Brown	March 2020	Current	3 out of 8*
Lisa Amalfi-Chiera	February 2018	Resigned Dec 2019	3 out of 8
Maria Shearn	March 2013	Current	7 out of 8
Ralph Francione	1986	Resigned Jan 2020	2 out of 8
Robyn Wilson	April 2015	Current	6 out of 8
Rommie Redlich	August 2009	Resigned Dec 2019	3 out of 8
Susan Mann	October 2017	Current	7 out of 8
Tony Ross	December 2011	Current	6 out of 8
Wilma Culton	November 2012	Current	8 out of 8

\* Member joined during the year.



# Financial Performance



The Financial Report has been audited by McPhail and Partners 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 2019/20 financial statement, please call 03 98769 8400 or email [contact@ssr.net.au](mailto:contact@ssr.net.au)



Cost of assistance grew by 32% to \$6,918,618 up from \$5,237,244 the previous year.

Total expenses amounted to \$2,809,285 an increase of 28% compared with the previous financial year.





Statement of Financial Position	2020	2019
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at Bank	1,884,123	2,630,109
Trade and other receivables	636,879	12,797
Inventories	778,319	734,097
Other Assets	54,864	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,354,185</b>	<b>3,377,003</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Financial Assets	15	15
Plant and Equipment	131,568	174,076
Intangible Assets	-	-
Right Use of Assets	23,050	-
<b>Total non-current Assets</b>	<b>154,633</b>	<b>174,091</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,508,818</b>	<b>3,551,094</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	672,093	674,408
Lease Liability	23,712	-
Income in advance	-	-
Provision for Employee Entitlements	100,901	53,415
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>796,706</b>	<b>727,823</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	6,307	30,784
Lease Liability	-	-
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>30,784</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>803,013</b>	<b>758,607</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Retained earnings	2,705,805	2,792,487
<b>Equity</b>	<b>2,705,805</b>	<b>2,792,487</b>
<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Receipts from operations	9,081,297	9,404,193
Payments to suppliers and employees	-9,805,968	-7,644,925
Interest received	18,785	20,198
Net cash provided by operating activities	-705,886	1,779,466
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	-120,962
Payment for intangible assets	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	-	-120,962
<b>Cash flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Lease payments	-40,100	-
Payment for intangible assets	-	-
Net cash flows from Financing Activities	-40,100	-
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>-745,986</b>	<b>1,658,504</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2,630,109	971,605
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>1,884,123</b>	<b>2,630,109</b>

<b>Statement of Profit &amp; Loss</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Revenue from continuing operations	\$	\$
<b>Grants</b>	<b>8,327,109</b>	<b>8,232,228</b>
Corporate Sponsorship	-	39,091
Finance Income	18,785	20,198
Fundraising - Contributions	314,970	118,867
Fundraising - Events	458,121	320,126
Fundraising - Gifts	329,992	333,938
In Kind Revenue	129,744	129,745
Other Income	62,500	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>9,641,221</b>	<b>9,194,193</b>
Less cost of Goods		
Calculators	-	18,335
Clothing and Footwear	2,925,161	1,667,479
Embroidery	65,636	-
Freight	186,413	160,891
iPads	-	80,870
MYKI Cards	117,481	-
Orders	\$3,623,927	3,309,669
<b>Total Cost of Goods</b>	<b>6,918,618</b>	<b>5,237,244</b>
<b>Gross Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>2,722,603</b>	<b>3,956,949</b>
Less Expenses		
Administration	-605,083	-551,391
Consultancy Fees	-110,904	-67,515
Depreciation - Furniture & Fixtures	-9,674	-9,186
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	-22,277	-62
Depreciation - ROU	-39,515	-
Employee Benefits	-1,767,512	-1,321,372
Fundraising	-35,226	-10,304
In Kind Employee and Rental Costs	-129,744	-129,745
Maintenance/Repairs	-11,633	-22,327
Other Expenses	-76,717	-86,171
Philanthropic Grants	-1,000	-2,608
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-2,809,285</b>	<b>-2,200,681</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>-86,682</b>	<b>1,756,268</b>
Income tax Expense	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>-86,682</b>	<b>1,756,268</b>

# 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



## Corporate Partner



## Supporters



## Philanthropic Supporters

- Equity Trustees
- Gandel Philanthropy
- The William Angliss Charitable Fund
- UNICEF

## In Kind Supporters

- ANZUK
- Holding Redlich
- JB Hi-Fi Solutions
- OneSight
- Optus

# 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



## State Schools' Relief

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ABN: 77 455 214 193

