



Making a difference
in the lives of
Victorian students

**STATE
SCHOOLS'
RELIEF**



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 92 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 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 assists students to engage in their learning and strengthen their educational outcomes

Issues such as poverty, neglect, unemployment, health issues/ illness, financial hardship, bereavement, domestic violence, homelessness, and natural disasters continue to affect many Victorian families. SSR provides government school students with new uniform items, footwear and other essential educational resources. 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 young people’s 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

In reflecting upon my 10-year term as President of the SSR Board, it would seem to me that 2015 was a watershed year for States Schools' Relief.

It was the year in which a small struggling organisation, providing school uniforms and shoes to approximately 5000 disadvantaged Victorian state school students, began the transformation to an organisation of impact, enabling and facilitating disadvantaged government school students to participate in their education.

Under our constitution, the purpose of SSR is to support disadvantaged students in Victorian government schools. However, from 2015, the significantly enhanced funding received from the state government has been the critical factor in enabling SSR to increase its assistance to approximately 70,000 applications per year and increase the annual revenue from \$500,000 to nearly \$10 million.

It has also meant that SSR has been able to increase the support it provides to disadvantaged students and their families. Although our core support is still uniforms and shoes, SSR has provided internet dongles and laptops to support at home learning, textbooks, work boots for VET students, swim wear, hand sanitiser, iPads for non-verbal students in Special Schools, myki cards and graphic calculators.

In the 2021/2022 financial year, support was provided to 67,232 students in 1330 schools which represents 85% of all Victorian government schools. State government support has also enabled SSR to successfully implement the Glasses for Kids program. This program tests the eyesight of students in prep to 3 in socioeconomically disadvantaged schools and if required, provides glasses free of charge. This is a 4-year program and in the 2022 calendar year over 6500 students will be screened in 130 schools.

So far this year 1,186 glasses have been dispensed which is an average of 23.1% of all students screened. Since 2020, 2658 pairs of glasses have been provided to eligible students. The provision of glasses to individual students has resulted in SSR receiving many heart-warming stories about the positive impact on the lives of students who have received glasses.

SSR has continued to grow and develop our social enterprise, Student's Choice. This initiative sees SSR providing school uniforms to schools seeking great quality items which are competitively priced. To date, SSR provides uniforms to approximately 40 schools, with all profits from sales providing further funds to assist students in need. The development of our social enterprise is particularly important as fundraising from schools has dropped significantly in the past 5 years.

The investment in systems and processes has resulted in a sophisticated infrastructure operating from two sites in Bentleigh and Dandenong South. This activity is overseen by an online ordering system, a complex financial system and supported by a business development and marketing team.

Our CEO, Sue Karzis, is supported by a small management team and is responsible for achieving our strategic objectives, driving innovation, and developing and building stakeholder relationships as well as ensuring service delivery and financial sustainability.

My thanks to all SSR staff, who provide a seamless, effective, and efficient service to ensure that SSR does what it does best - that is, making a difference to the lives of disadvantaged students in government schools

The SSR Board operates in an environment of continuous improvement and aims to achieve high standards of governance and oversee an organisation which performs to its maximum ability.

The Board is always mindful of its responsibility to ensure best use of government funds, to maintain financial sustainability and to set strategic objectives for SSR.

This has been done through contribution from all Board members and particularly through the work of our three subcommittees, Audit Risk and Finance, Service Delivery and Remuneration and Governance. My thanks to the chairs of these committees, Sue Mann, Sean Collier and Tony Ross. During the year we welcomed Colin Axup, Gail McHardy and Hacia Atherton to the Board.

We also farewelled Jenny Ballard and Barbara Laidlaw. Long standing member Robyn Wilson is leaving the Board, as is our longest serving Board member, John Hurley, who has retired from teaching. I would like to particularly thank John and Robyn for their commitment and contribution to the work of SSR.

The Department of Education is our major stakeholder and without their support and assistance we would not be able to provide the range of assistance that we do. We are also grateful for the ongoing support of ASCA and Bank First, both of whom have been long-standing supporters of SSR. We have also received great support from philanthropic organisations and their support has enabled us to provide laptops and iPads for nonverbal students.

After 10 years as SSR President I stepped down from the position at the end of October 2022. It has been a source of great pleasure and pride to be associated with the transformation of SSR into a modern, relevant organisation which demonstrates great impact in the work that it does.

I am forever grateful for the support from my Board colleagues who have been instrumental in our journey of progress. Christine Stewart has been the Deputy Chair during my time as Chair and I am thankful for her support and counsel.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank our CEO, Sue Karzis. Sue and I have a shared vision for SSR, and with continued support from the state government and the Department of Education and Training, State Schools' Relief is well on its way to realising that vision for the advantage of the most important group of all - disadvantaged government school students and their families.

Barry Smith

President



“

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CEO Report

The 2021/22 financial year was a year of transformation for SSR, where we were able to streamline our systems and processes and expand our service offerings to provide even greater support for vulnerable Victorian state school students and their families.

Against an uncertain backdrop, SSR teams focused on providing streamlined support to ensure that those students most in need received practical and impactful assistance. We continued to provide tangible support in the form of school uniforms and shoes, textbooks, school bags and learning devices. In the last financial year alone, SSR was able to provide 5,208 laptops to students in need, which is a remarkable achievement given the challenging and ever-changing landscape.

I am proud that despite the challenges, SSR was able to continue with special programs that fulfil a particular need in the community, such as our iPad for non-verbal students program. This program was run for the first time in 2019 and continues to provide transformational impact to students. In the last financial year, this program enabled 425 non-verbal students to have a voice via the iPad, along with the use of speech apps, loaded onto the devices by staff at the 80 specialist schools in Victoria. The support received from Bank First and ASCA cannot be understated. My sincere thanks go to Bank First and ASCA for their continued support and belief in the work that we do.

Our Glasses for Kids Program also continued its service delivery albeit with many schools being rescheduled due to Covid. Despite a disrupted Term 3, the program was able to resume at full capacity in Term 4 with the team delivering the program to 48 schools throughout 19 LGA's.

Providing screening, testing and glasses to students in need remained our priority, with over 5,600 students participating and over 1,300 pairs of glasses prescribed with the aim of improving eye health and removing vision impairments as a barrier to educational engagement. Leading into our final year of the current program, it is not without gratitude for our supporters including the Department of Education and Training, in particular the team at School Operations and State-wide Services Division, program staff and partner optometrists. The Board and I are extremely proud of the vital service we provide to 340 of the most disadvantaged state schools and up to 40,000 students.

All of this is only possible with the support of our key partners, including Bank First, Perpetual, ASCA, Freemasons, The William Angliss Charitable Fund, Collier Charitable Fund, The Frank Montagnese Fund, The Ian Potter Foundation. The in-kind support provided by Holding Redlich, Optus, CompNow and OneSight has also greatly assisted SSR to fulfil its mission.

For an organisation comprising 22 staff, we have achieved great impact, and this is something that both our staff and Board can feel immensely proud. I would like to thank our staff for their tireless efforts over the last year, and for always stepping up to ensure that SSR can deliver to those in need.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteer Board of SSR for their



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support over the last year. I would like to pay a special tribute to Barry Smith, the President of the SSR Board who will be stepping down from this role at the end of October.

Barry has been instrumental in driving innovation and developing the social enterprise arm of our organisation during his tenure as President. Personally, Barry has supported the shared strategic vision for SSR and used his influence to ensure that, as an organisation, we continue to evolve and develop exciting strategic priorities that will provide transformational impact into the future. Barry will remain on the Board, using his wealth of knowledge and experience to chair the Service Delivery subcommittee. Since 1930, SSR has played a key role in assisting Victorian

state school students engage with education. Our values and mission remain the same, but as an organisation we have developed a breadth of support that goes beyond uniforms and remains agile and able to respond to changing community needs. This is our strength and I look forward to further developing our programs to enable greater support to even more students in need.

Sue Karzis

Chief Executive Officer





Expansion of our essential offerings



Over the past year, we have continued to expand our range of 'essential offerings' for Victorian students.

Along with regular school uniform items such as shirts, pants, jumpers, dresses etc., we are now offering a greatly expanded range that includes beanies, tights, leggings, bike shorts, puffer vest and jackets!

We also have everything kids need for swimming programs – swimming caps, towels, goggles, mesh swim bags, plus swimsuits (male and female) and rashies. In addition to this, after having received feedback from several schools, we introduced numerous other items to diversify our range. These include modesty swimwear for girls and boys, hijabs, sunscreen, drink bottles, lunch bags and head lice solution.

Schools can be assured that we are continually assessing and updating our range, and students can feel confident that State Schools' Relief only provides high quality items – they needn't worry about looking out-of-place among their peers which in turn means they can better engage with their schooling.



Outcomes of our work



Data collected from a recently conducted survey of the State Schools' Relief 'Affordable School Uniforms' (ASU) program provided the following feedback on the impact the ASU program had on the students' social and emotional wellbeing.

The data contained responses from school representatives (e.g., school coordinators, wellbeing coordinators, social workers, etc.) to a range of multiple-choice questions.

The student-level outcomes that were most positively impacted by the ASU program were students' self-confidence or self-esteem, with 73% of respondents indicating at least a moderate improvement, and students' sense of belonging or connectedness to the school, with 71% of respondents indicating at

least a moderate improvement. Students' level of anxiety, their relationships with teachers and other staff, and their relationships with their peers were also strongly impacted, with at least 50% of respondents indicating a moderate or large improvement since students received support (56%, 58% and 53%, respectively).

Self-esteem;

73%

improvement

Belonging;

71%

improvement

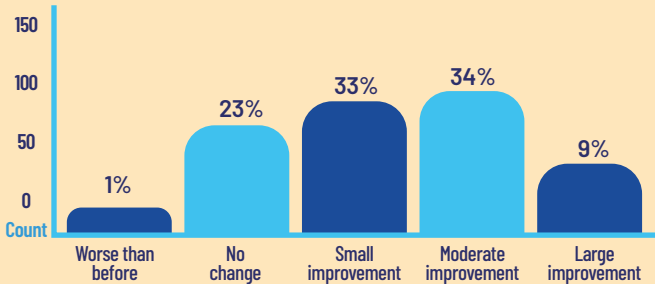
Anxiety;

50%

improvement

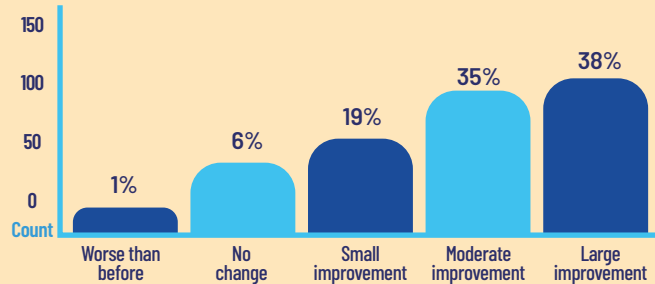
Engagement

Nearly half (43%) of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' engagement in learning showed a moderate or large improvement.



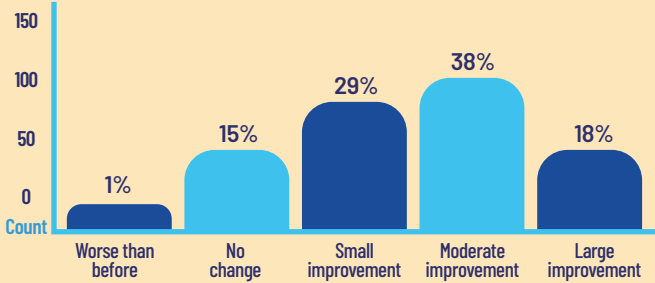
Confidence

Nearly three quarters (73%) of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' self-confidence or self esteem showed a moderate or large improvement.



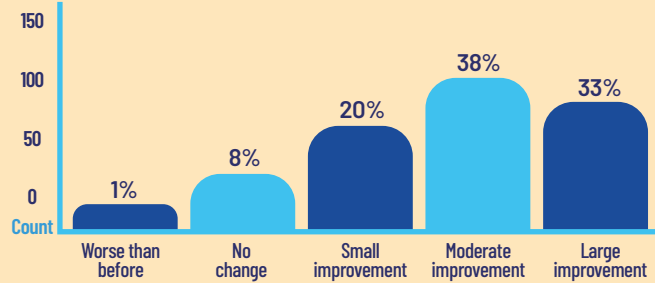
Anxiety

Over half (56%) of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the Affordable School Uniforms program, students' level of anxiety about school showed a moderate or large improvement.



Belonging

Nearly three quarters (71%) of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' sense of belonging or connectedness to the school showed a moderate or large improvement.



Social Enterprise

In 2015, SSR made a conscious decision to develop a social enterprise to deliver surplus which could go towards our social purpose.

Our mission for the last 92 years has been to support Victorian state school students by removing barriers to education. Building on our knowledge and experience of school uniforms, our own label, Student's Choice was developed. The idea was to provide schools with our own branded items, which in turn would allow many more students to access assistance.

In further developing our Student's Choice brand, SSR also began to offer uniform supply as an option for schools and we now have more than 40 schools utilising our services.

Social enterprises exist to deliver a special social mission – and our social mission to ensure that students can engage with education regardless of their circumstances has seen the applications for assistance continue to rise. Therefore, setting up a dynamic and independent business was a logical step. The Student's Choice label also adds to the market competition and brings a new dimension to the uniform retail space.

Schools choosing State Schools' Relief as their uniform supplier are not only supporting the charitable arm of our organisation, they're contributing to an important social purpose that sees every dollar invested back into the organisation to further support students in need and they are offering more affordable options to their families.

“Altona Meadows Primary School students seen here in uniforms supplied exclusively by State Schools' Relief.”



Workwear

2021/22 was the second year that State Schools' Relief has supplied workwear via our social enterprise model. Whilst primarily developed to fulfil the need for VCAL students, the value and quality of these products has seen the expansion of the supply of workwear items to a wide variety of businesses. SSR now supplies an entire range of high-quality workwear items, including boots, which comply with Australian standards for work sites and offer great value for money.

In the past financial year, over 45 schools purchased workwear from SSR, including Skills Invest, The Western Edge Cluster host schools and several other local businesses. Many schools have also purchased hi-vis vests for both their staff and students.



Special Projects

THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

SPECTACULAR

For the second year running, State Schools' Relief was proud to be chosen as the preferred supplier of the official 2022 Victorian State Schools Spectacular merchandise.

SSR produced specially printed long and short-sleeved t-shirts and commemorative hoodies for the Mass Choir, Mass Dance and the Core Performing Company, Crew & Staff.

In keeping with our values of equality, dignity and belonging, SSR was proud to support students in over 200 schools. For some that were unable to meet the cost of the merchandise, SSR was able to provide these free of charge.

After such a successful event in 2022, we very much look forward to continuing this partnership into 2023 and beyond!



Student's Choice

Our own brand of uniforms and shoes

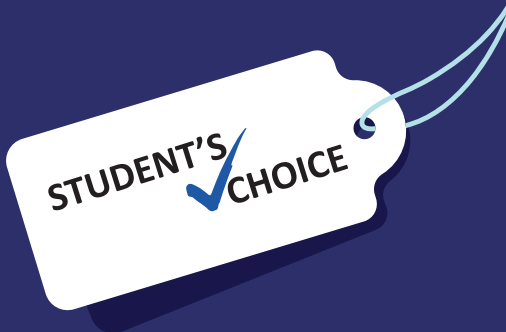
A successful method of reducing the cost of our service is the supply of 'our own' brand of uniforms and school shoes. By working closely with schools to provide our Student's Choice uniform items and shoes where possible, it means that high-quality clothing is supplied which closely resembles the branded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

There are many benefits to this. It ensures the items received by students are free of charge, there's no additional financial contribution required, and crucially, it enables more students to benefit from our support.

Why choose Student's Choice?

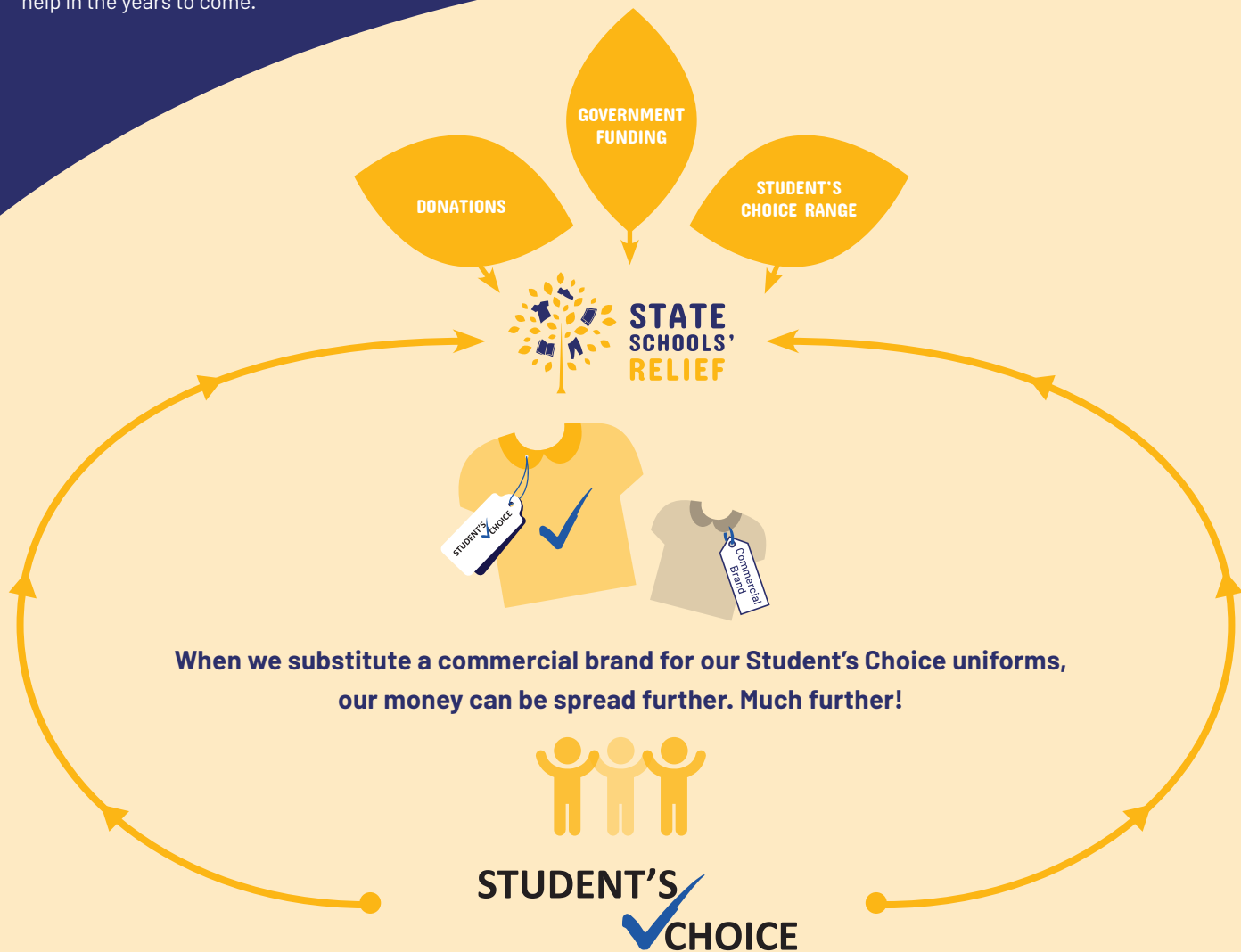
The Student's Choice range is a social enterprise that allows us to continue the work that we do. All money earned from the sale of our Student's Choice label goes straight back into a Victorian student's education.

- 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 three 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.



When you purchase uniform and workwear items from SSR, you're assisting us to continue in our mission of ensuring that Victorian state school students can fully engage in their learning and strengthen their educational outcomes.

100% of the profits from the sales of these ranges are returned to the organisation to further benefit disadvantaged students.



Ambassador's Message

“ We want all Victorian students to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. ”

The Andrews Government and State Schools' Relief continue their commitment to helping Victorian families access education without barriers. It's more important than ever that we focus our efforts on making sure no Victorian child is left behind. The support State Schools' Relief provides our children is a key part of this, assisting with the cost of uniforms, shoes and essential educational resources.

By helping children to feel included at school, State Schools' Relief boosts their sense of worth and wellbeing and, ultimately, supporting them to fully engage in school. We want all Victorian students to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The Victorian Government is proud to continue its support of State Schools' Relief as we continue to support Victorian families.

Sonya Kilkenny MP

State Member for Carrum

State Schools' Relief Ambassador





A look back in history 1974 - 1975

State Schools' Relief Committee

Secretary: K. Souter - - - - - Donations and Rag Appeals, 42 8581
Executive Officer: Miss L. M. Haustorfer - - - - - Clothing Relief, 42 5300

The State Schools' Relief Committee exists to help needy children in our State Schools with school clothing and footwear. It matters not whether the child lives in the remotest country area or in the heart of the metropolis, or whether he or she is attending a primary, a secondary or a technical school; relief is available.

HOW IS RELIEF FOR A NEEDY CHILD OBTAINED?

If the Principal of a school is satisfied that a child in his school is in need of assistance, all he has to do is to obtain an APPLICATION FORM from 21 Lincoln Street, Richmond, 3121, Tel. 42 5300, fill it in and return it to the S.S.R.C. The items requested will be sent speedily by rail.

OUR FAMILY IS A LARGE ONE

From 1st September, 1973, to 31st August, 1974, 3,672 scholars were assisted, 1,266 from secondary and technical schools, and 2,406 from primary schools.

Some of the items provided were:—	5,460 items of underwear
2,476 pairs of shoes	1,546 raincoats
4,216 pairs of socks	409 skirts
2,195 trousers and shorts	459 tunics
2,226 jumpers	125 blazers
3,018 shirts	1,442 frocks

To do this the cost was \$64,574

Last year the cost was \$60,109.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

It is raised by—

- (a) Donations from Social Service Leagues in our primary, secondary and technical schools; donations from interested organizations, and private donations.
- (b) July Appeal.
- (c) The sale of rags collected in our RAG APPEALS in schools.

Maybe YOUR SCHOOL Social Service League could help with a donation or could run a SPECIAL EFFORT on behalf of the S.S.R.C. Many of the larger schools, in their Rag Salvage Projects collect, at least, 1,000 lbs. (450 kg approx.) of rag. Outstanding contributions have reached 3,000 lb. (1360 kg approx.) of rags—enough to clothe 2 primary children and 1 secondary child for a year. This means a most valuable contribution to our funds. Most metropolitan schools can arrange for *THREE* Rag Appeals in the year—*ONE* each term.

Groups of country schools could combine in an appeal for waste rags. We can supply bags and labels and the Railways carry the rags without cost to the school.

If your school has helped in previous years, we would welcome its support again in 1974-75 and in subsequent years.

Let us be certain that there isn't a child in any of our State Schools who wants for school clothing. If you are an assistant in a school, work with the Principal. If a Principal in a country centre work through the S.S.R.C. We rely on you! We seek your support!

For the State Schools' Relief Committee.

1968-1974 I. C. C. W. McARTHUR, Treasurer.

1975 R. COOPER

1974 C. ROACH, President.

1975 R. WADE, President.



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It matters not whether the child lives in the remotest country area or in the heart of the metropolis, or whether he or she is attending a primary, a secondary or a technical school; relief is available.

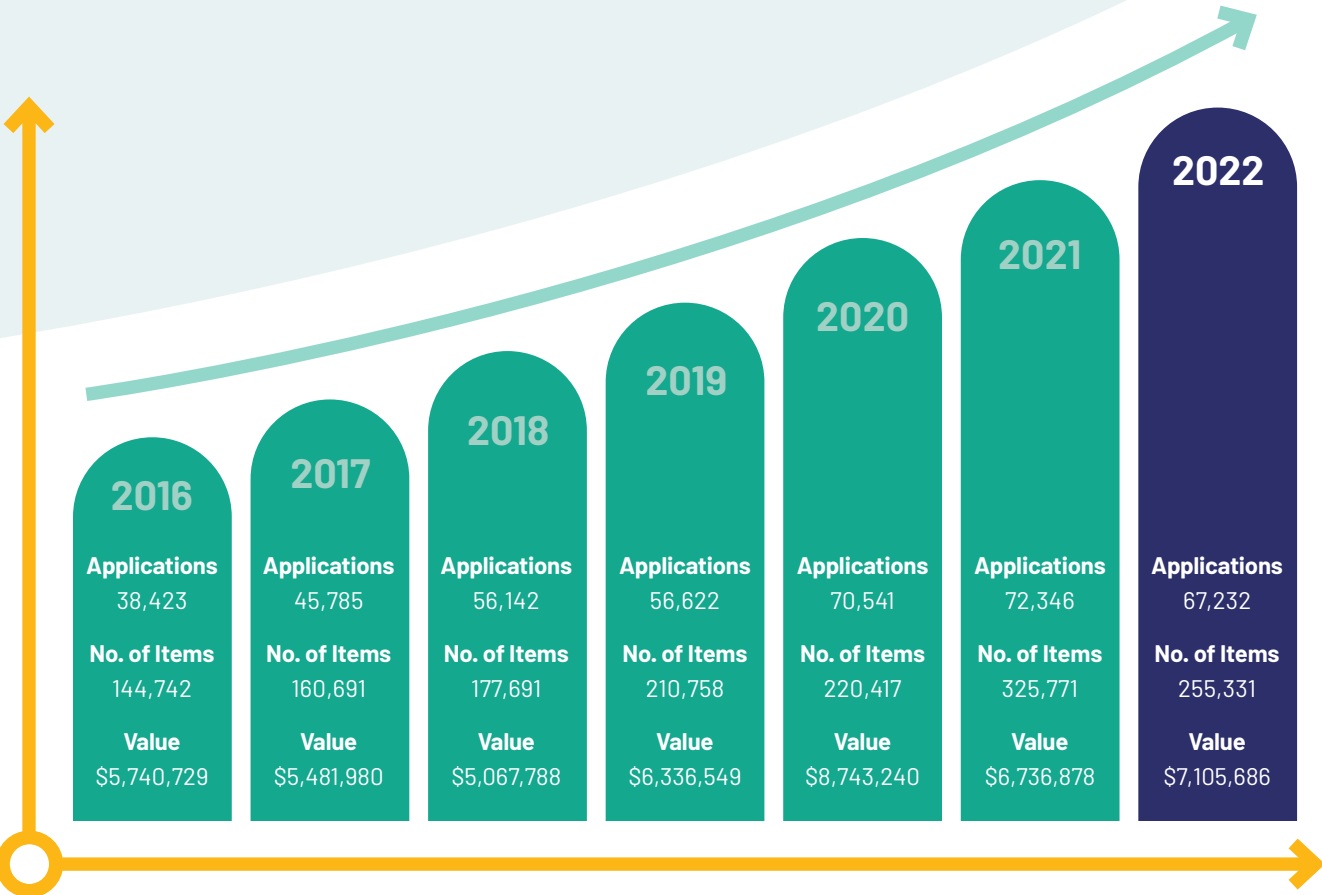
State Schools' Relief Committee 1974 - 1975

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Facts & Figures

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



In 2021/2022, we assisted **67,232** disadvantaged Victorian state school students.



Shirts, tops, jackets and dresses make up more than **20,000 items**

We supplied over **23,000 pairs** of school shoes and work boots

Socks, briefs and singlets make up over **36,000 items**

85% of Victorian state schools were assisted in 2021/2022!
That's 1,330 schools

Utilisation of our services in 2021/22: 72 x P-12 schools, 927 x Primary schools, 246 x Secondary schools and 85 x Specialist/Language schools.

Average cost per application

\$105.69

Average cost per item

\$27.83

Support provided to Victorian Local Government Areas (LGAs)

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



- Mallee

Loddon

Hume Moreland

North Eastern Melbourne
- Ovens Murray

Goulburn

Outer Eastern Melbourne

Inner Eastern Melbourne
- Outer Gippsland

Inner Gippsland

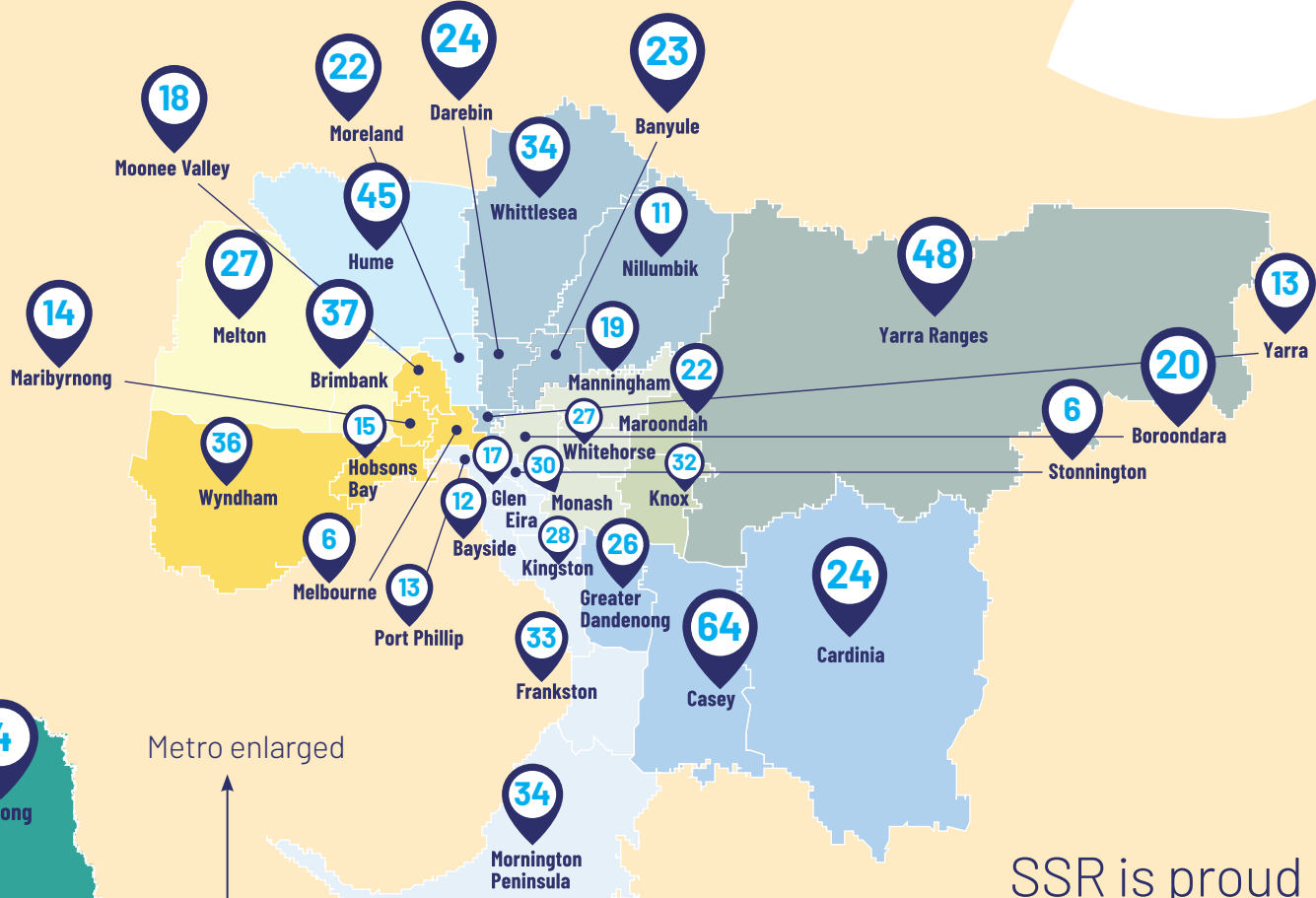
Southern Melbourne

Bayside Peninsula
- Western District

Barwon

Central Highlands
- Western Melbourne

Brimbank Melton



Metro enlarged

SSR is proud to have provided an **outstanding** amount of support to **1330** schools throughout Victoria in 2021/2022.

Alpine (S)	5	Gannawarra (S)	8	Mansfield (S)	2	Queenscliffe (B)	2
Ararat (RC)	5	Glen Eira (C)	17	Maribyrnong (C)	14	South Gippsland (S)	13
Ballarat (C)	29	Glenelg (S)	10	Maroondah (C)	22	Southern Grampians (S)	7
Banyule (C)	23	Golden Plains (S)	9	Melbourne (C)	6	Stonnington (C)	6
Bass Coast (S)	10	Greater Bendigo (C)	30	Melton (C)	27	Strathbogrie (S)	5
Baw Baw (S)	23	Greater Dandenong (C)	26	Mildura (RC)	20	Surf Coast (S)	8
Bayside (C)	12	Greater Geelong (C)	51	Mitchell (S)	12	Swan Hill (RC)	11
Benalla (RC)	2	Greater Shepparton (C)	25	Moira (S)	12	Towong (S)	4
Boroondara (C)	20	Hepburn (S)	7	Monash (C)	30	Wangaratta (RC)	14
Brimbank (C)	37	Hindmarsh (S)	4	Moonee Valley (C)	18	Warrnambool (C)	9
Buloke (S)	7	Hobsons Bay (C)	15	Moorabool (S)	9	Wellington (S)	22
Campaspe (S)	14	Horsham (RC)	4	Moreland (C)	22	West Wimmera (S)	3
Cardinia (S)	24	Hume (C)	45	Mornington Peninsula (S)	34	Whitehorse (C)	27
Casey (C)	64	Indigo (S)	9	Mount Alexander (S)	10	Whittlesea (C)	34
Central Goldfields (S)	6	Kingston (C)	28	Moyne (S)	7	Wodonga (C)	9
Colac-Otway (S)	8	Knox (C)	32	Murrindindi (S)	8	Wyndham (C)	36
Corangamite (S)	10	Latrobe (C)	25	Nillumbik (S)	11	Yarra (C)	13
Darebin (C)	24	Loddon (S)	6	Northern Grampians (S)	7	Yarra Ranges (S)	48
East Gippsland (S)	23	Macedon Ranges (S)	12	Port Phillip (C)	13	Yarriambiack (S)	6
Frankston (C)	33	Manningham (C)	19	Pyrenees (S)	8		



State Schools' Relief iPad Program

In 2019 State Schools' Relief launched our pilot **iPad program**, which saw us provide these devices for **non-verbal students** within a specialist school setting.

This program is aimed at assisting students experiencing significant communication barriers within their school environment and at home.

Eligible students are identified by teachers, allied health staff and principals in specialist schools as struggling with the impact of material disadvantage, with the cost of the iPads proving to be prohibitive for families and carers.

Throughout Victoria there are more than 80 government specialist schools. Many students within these schools are non-verbal. Traditionally, there hasn't been an adequate solution to assist these students communicate with their teachers, allied health workers, families, peers and the wider community. Technology now enables the use of various apps to assist with language learning. Most importantly, iPads are a crucial tool in helping special needs students to break down barriers and improve their communication skills.

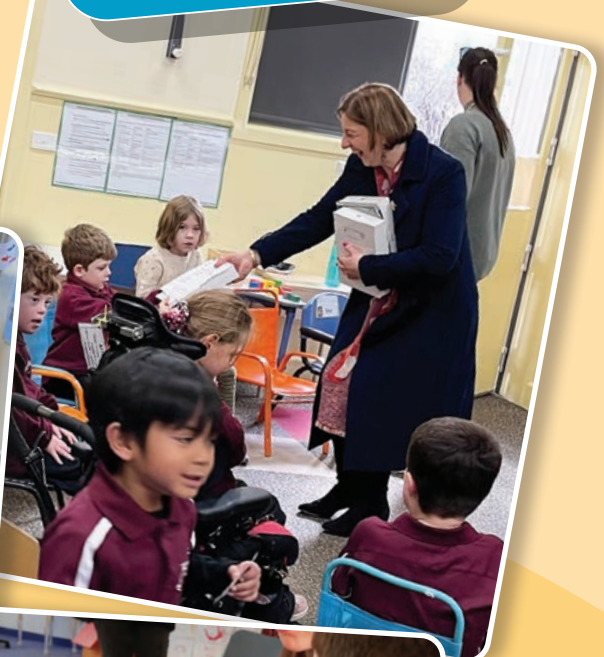
The third iteration of this transformational program was rolled out during Term 2, 2022 and all specialist schools were invited to apply for assistance on behalf of their non-verbal students.

Due to the generosity of our funding partners, Bank First and ASCA, we were able to provide 426 iPads & covers to non-verbal students from 48 schools, across 39 LGAs*.

2022 saw us exceed the number of iPads provided to students in 2021 – and we intend on increasing our reach even further in 2023.



2022 saw us exceed the number of iPads provided to students in 2021! And, we intend on increasing our reach even further in 2023



ASCA
BETTER BUYING POWER FOR SCHOOLS

bankfirst
invested in you

*An LGA is a Local Government Area.

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



The Glasses for Kids Program continues to be an important addition to the transformational support offered by State Schools' Relief. The partnership between SSR and the Department of Education and Training Victoria is one which has allowed for significant impact in reducing barriers to educational engagement.

Between 2020 - 2023, State Schools' Relief will visit 340 mainstream and specialist schools in the most disadvantaged areas of Victoria and target more than 40,000 students in Prep to grade 3 age groups for vision screening, and if required further testing and the provision of glasses. The program aims to remove vision impairment as a potential barrier to educational engagement by ensuring that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are supported to fully participate in education from their early years.

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.

Ongoing COVID-19 impacts and consequences carried through the lockdowns significantly reduced the service delivery of the program during terms 3 and 4 in 2021. Only nine schools were able to be serviced during term 3, however once students returned to onsite learning in term 4, Glasses for Kids was very fortunate to be back on the road again, visiting **48 schools** throughout Barwon, Central Highlands, Goulburn, Hume Moreland, Loddon Campaspe, Mallee, North and Outer Eastern Melbourne as well as Wimmera South West.

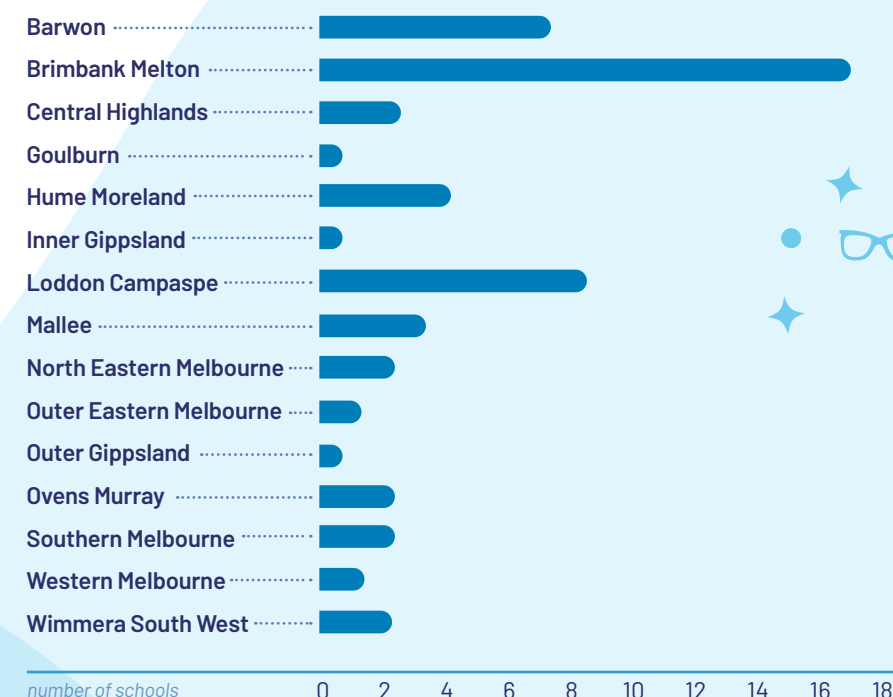
Despite the continued barriers the program faced due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to positively impact the lives of **5,629 students** during the 2021/22 financial year with the ongoing support of Department of Education and Training.

Program Outcomes

- 115** Participating schools (44 metro and 71 regional)
- 6,408** Consent forms received (49% of targeted students)
- 5,629** Vision screenings provided (88% of consent forms received)
- 2,349** Comprehensive eye tests conducted (42% of students screened)
- 1,344** Pairs of glasses prescribed (24% of students tested)
- 760** Referrals written (14% of students screened)
- 779** Students absent from the visit due to COVID-19 or illness (based on teacher feedback)



Number of schools visited per area



Number of schools visited per region and Local Government Area

South Eastern Victoria

Greater Geelong	7
Brimbank	16
Melton	8
Ararat	2
Ballarat	3
Pyrenees	3
Wyndham	1
Horsham	2
Northern Grampians	1
Southern Grampians	2

North Western Victoria

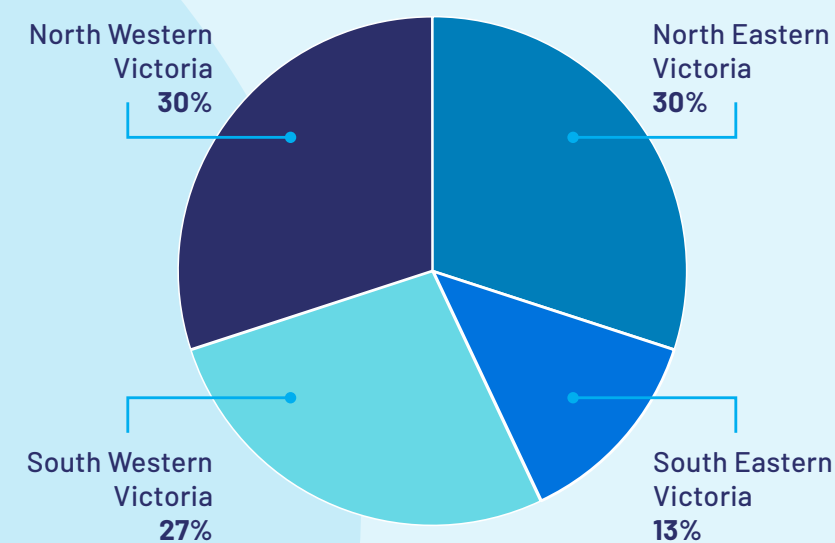
Hume	4
Moreland	1
Campaspe	8
Central Goldfields	1
Greater Bendigo	10
Loddon	1
Mount Alexander	1
Mildura	3
Swan Hill	5
Darebin	3
Whittlesea	2

North Eastern Victoria

Greater Shepparton	1
Stratfbogie	2
Murrindindi	2
Knox	2
Maroondah	1
Yarra Ranges	2
Benalla	3
Indigo	1
Towong	1
Wangaratta	4
Wodonga	3

South Western Victoria

South Gippsland	1
East Gippsland	1
Wellington	4
Casey	3
Greater Dandenong	1





Here's what some of the principals, wellbeing staff and business managers had to say about the Glasses for Kids program...

- “ One of our students has been very happy to wear new glasses and excited to be at school, although the student was always cheerful, he now proudly shows others his glasses and we have seen a positive impact on his self-worth. ”
- “ As a whole school community, we were absolutely thrilled with the service provided and in particular the outcome for our school, many of whom may have gone unnoticed in the world of poor vision. A huge thankyou to the expert and caring team that visited our school. ”
- “ All our students have been on site for the whole lockdown. 90% of the students have been more than happy to wear their glasses and the results are truly amazing. We wish more families would have taken up the offer.”
- “ This is a vital program that supports families that may not be able to go to the optometrist and buy glasses for their child or children. When students receive glasses, it has a significant impact on their ability to focus in the classroom, greater ability to learn literacy and numeracy skills, and have a better sense of self-worth and belief. ”



- “ Thank you to the State Schools Relief Glasses for Kids program! The benefits our small, rural and remote students, who received glasses, cannot be understated. They have been given a great opportunity and to a child have shown benefits and growth! ”



- “ This is a fantastic initiative for our state school kids. The stresses placed on parents over the past 2 years has really impacted the amount of additional support (including getting eyes checked) they are able to give their children. This program was easy to manage at a school level, the communication was fantastic, and the results were so pleasing. ”
- “ The support of the State Schools' Relief GFK program is wonderful. This program supports our community to ensure ALL students have access to the best start at school. Many families have accessed these glasses and made improvements for those students as learners and as members of our school community. ”
- “ I think that this initiative is wonderful in that it helps students who wouldn't otherwise be given the opportunity to have their eyes assessed and furthermore, provide them with a pair of glasses if required. It alleviates relying on the parents to take students to complete the tests whereas if we can provide this service in school, helps all parties involved.”
- “ It is an extremely highly regarded program and provides a service some of our children cannot access normally due to the capacity of their parents. ”



- “ Such a great program for our students from low economic families. Financial relief as well as education around the need to have your child's eyes checked was very much appreciated by our parents. This program has helped our students with their vision and now they are more engaged in their learning and happy.....just awesome. ”
- “ An outstanding program that should be offered every year to students at schools with low SFOE status. ”
- “ It has given this student more confidence in the classroom and in completing his work. ”
- “ This particular student's parents could not afford glasses as they are still on a temporary protection visa and money is tight. His reading and word recognition has improved, and he is proud of his achievements. ”

“

State Schools' Relief is a wonderful program that does a lot to improve a student's and a school's sense of wellbeing. We have a very wide-ranging enrolment with some families being well off and other families struggling to make ends meet. You would not be able to tell the difference between the children's presentation regardless of their background. **As a school we are very grateful that we can extend our support of students by way of the SSR program**, and proudly tell new parents to the school that we are able to tap into support for them and their children. If I ever have any queries the staff at the program are always patient and supportive. ”

“

Many of our families have benefitted from receiving uniforms this year. This year has been a particularly difficult year for many of our families and not having to worry about school uniforms and shoes has been greatly appreciated. Our students liked having matching shoes. Remote learning was a challenge for many families and being able to receive help with supplies and even a desk where needed was something that surprised our school community. **No child went without internet access, space to learn or any other essential requirement to assist with their success in learning during these difficult few months. The support that we had from your staff this year has been second to none. Nothing was ever too much hassle for them.** ”

“

The SSR Affordable School Uniform Program is a godsend to so many of my school's families. Without this program I would have many students who would not be in full school uniform every day and / or be in ratty, ill fitting, dirty uniform, or not attending every day due to not having a full or clean uniform to wear. **This program is an integral part of our School Wellbeing Support that we offer families and is very highly regarded and appreciated.** Thank you SSR team for all you do. ”

Impact of our Work



“

This student and her siblings are lucky to have been supported by SSR. She was able to do a VCE Maths subject by being the recipient of a CAS Calculator & Maths Textbook in 2020. **The family now have a uniform that is new and fresh, and the children do not feel embarrassed as they did in previous years. They are now engaged in class and the mother is so grateful.** Thank you so much SSR, your staff are always friendly and beyond helpful. ”

“

This is an invaluable program for people of an indigenous background and suffering financial hardship. Living and working in a rural community I see students struggling to fit in because their parents can't afford a uniform. I give students second-hand uniforms where I can, but for them to receive a brand-new uniform, **it brings a huge smile to their face. Thank you for doing what you do.** ”



“

I think that State Schools' Relief is one of the best organisations available to students and families. The lady that worked in the office at our school until she retired recently told everybody how fabulous SSR is and always followed it with "if I ever won tatts lotto, I would donate money to them." I think that sums up beautifully how much your service is appreciated by our school community, so on behalf of all of us, we thank you. ”

“

While for this student wearing a uniform does not have much meaning due to his disability, having a uniform has been wonderful for his parents. As parents of a child with ASD, too often their child has been different and just having him **wearing the same clothes as all the other students has given them a real sense of belonging and community.** Thanks, from NSA and all our students accessing your service. ”

Impact of our Work



“

This is an incredibly valuable program.

So many more of our families have had to access this program this year. Our young people should not have to bear the impact of their family's socioeconomic status, and this program helps them not to be so 'obvious' at school. **This helps a child feel more connected and gives them a better space for their learning.** As a school we have provided food parcels to about 20 of our families every month or so in 2020. It has been a hard year due to the impact of Covid, and other changes, and it is not over yet. ”

“

We cannot measure the impact of the affordable School Uniforms program adequately. The donations to our students have put smiles on faces, improved their interactions with other students and eased their anxiety. Our students have all moved from overseas and most from war torn countries where school was an unwelcoming often scary place, and they crave a normal school life wearing decent clothes and feeling part of the community. **What SSR does can never be underestimated for what they do for the wellbeing of students in Victoria.** ”

“

This is such a valuable program. We have many single parent families who just cannot afford to keep their children's uniform up to date. **The most important step is to have students comfortable and starting to establish that sense of belonging and that they are okay.** Then teachers can start to work on behaviour and academic performance that can see students into a pathway for a successful life. We are so grateful for the support and in many cases the school funds the balance of the vouchers. The other programs with the myki cards and top ups are also fantastic as they keep students at risk attached to a school, they are familiar with, and teachers have established relationships with. Thank you and thank you to your sponsors. ”





State Schools' Relief Laptop Program 2021/22

The second half of 2021 saw Victoria's sixth lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic and the demand for devices continued to highlight the digital divide that first became apparent in 2020.

With so many students at a disadvantage without a laptop or internet connection, State Schools' Relief continued to offer support to any student that found themselves unable to engage with remote learning. This saw an unprecedented increase in the supply of devices, with 5,208 laptops and 1,371 internet USBs provided to students in need across the state.

5,208 Laptops

were provided to students in 2021/22 financial year

Students at 430 Schools

across the state received these laptops - that's 27% of all government schools

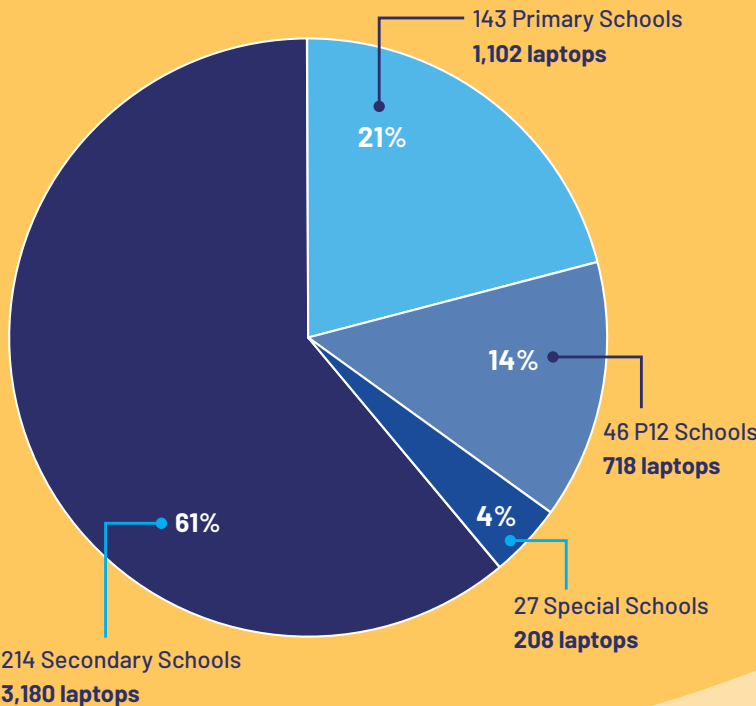
A total of 76

(out of 79) Local Government Areas were covered by this program - **that's 96%**!



Below shows the **20 LGA's that received** the most devices, totalling **3,716 laptops.** That's more than 50% of all devices provided!

Wyndham (C)	440
Hume (C)	370
Brimbank (C)	284
Whittlesea (C)	262
East Gippsland (S)	244
Frankston (C)	238
Latrobe (C)	231
Casey (C)	224
Greater Geelong (C)	175
Darebin (C)	163
Campaspe (S)	159
Kingston (C)	136
Greater Dandenong (C)	129
Mildura (RC)	112
Greater Bendigo (C)	98
Greater Shepparton (C)	96
Yarra Ranges (S)	96
Moreland (C)	87
Moira (S)	86
Wangaratta (RC)	86



Our Board Members

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



Barry Smith, President

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

Christine Stewart, Vice President

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

Barbara Laidlaw

M.E.P.A, B.Ed (Arts/Lib secondary), A.L.A.A. Represents the Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals (VASSP).

Cheryle Osborne

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

Colin Axup

B.A (Hons), Dip. Ed, Grad. Dip Strategic Studies.
Represents Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals (VASSP).

Esther Wood

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

Gail McHardy

Represents Parents Victoria.

Hacia Atherton

CPA. Elected member.

Jenny Ballard

Represents Parents Victoria.

John Hurley

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

Maria Shearn

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

Robyn Wilson

D. Bus. Admin. Represents Business Managers Victoria.

Sean Collier

BBus, MBA, GAICD, FGIA. Elected member.

Susan Mann

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

Tony Ross

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

Wilma Culton

B. Ed, M. Ed. Elected member.

Board member meeting attendance 2021/2022			
Member	Member Since	Status	Meetings Attended
Barry Smith	September 2011	Current	8 out of 8
Christine Stewart	February 2010	Current	8 out of 8
Barbara Laidlaw	April 2019	Resigned Feb 2022	2 out of 8
Cheryle Osborne	February 2016	Current	8 out of 8
Colin Axup*	February 2022	Current	4 out of 8
Esther Wood	March 2009	Current	8 out of 8
Gail McHardy*	June 2022	Current	1 out of 8
Hacia Atherton*	October 2021	Current	6 out of 8
Jenny Ballard	May 2020	Resigned Feb 2022	3 out of 8
John Hurley	August 2007	Current	8 out of 8
Kaye Wheatley-Brown	March 2020	Resigned Aug 2021	1 out of 8
Maria Shearn	March 2013	Current	7 out of 8
Robyn Wilson	April 2015	Current	7 out of 8
Sean Collier	December 2020	Current	7 out of 8
Susan Mann	October 2017	Current	7 out of 8
Tony Ross	December 2011	Current	7 out of 8
Wilma Culton	November 2012	Current	8 out of 8

* Member joined during the 2021/22 year.



Financial Performance



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

If you would like to request a copy of the complete audited 2021/22 financial statement, please call 03 8769 8400 or email contact@ssr.net.au

Statement of Financial Position	2022	2021
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash at Bank	4,507,062	3,823,513
Trade and other receivables	73,166	5,860
Inventories	851,586	704,260
Other Assets	93,713	-
Total Current Assets	5,525,527	4,533,633
Non-current Assets		
Financial Assets	15	15
Plant and Equipment	89,790	100,142
Intangible Assets	-	-
Right Use of Assets	24,409	66,252
Total non-current Assets	114,214	166,252
Total Assets	5,639,741	4,700,042
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,380,873	370,650
Lease Liability	25,185	41,739
Income in advance	-	-
Provision for Employee Entitlements	115,950	138,608
Total current liabilities	1,522,008	550,997
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	52,093	21,385
Lease Liability	-	25,185
Total non current liabilities	52,093	46,570
Total liabilities	597,567	597,567
Net Assets		
Retained earnings	4,065,640	4,102,475
Equity	4,065,640	4,102,475

Statement of Cash Flows	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities	\$	\$
Receipts from donors and funding agencies	9,988,275	9,987,651
Payments to suppliers and employees	-9,249,967	-8,018,817
Interest received	12,737	12,271
Net cash provided by operating activities	751,045	1,981,105
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-24,423	-
Payment for intangible assets	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	-	-
Cash flows from Financing Activities		
Lease payments	-43,073	-41,715
Payment for intangible assets	-	-
Net cash flows from Financing Activities	-43,073	-41,715
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	683,549	1,939,390
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,823,513	1,884,123
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4,507,062	3,823,513



Statement of Profit & Loss	2022	2021
Revenue from continuing operations	\$	\$
Grants	8,879,857	8,406,257
Corporate Sponsorship	-	-
Finance Income	-	-
Fundraising - Contributions	-	-
Fundraising - Events	575,440	317,127
Fundraising - Gifts	275,442	254,276
In Kind Revenue	129,744	129,744
Other Income	50,155	115,153
Total Revenue	9,910,638	9,222,557
Less cost of Goods		
Calculators	-	-
Clothing and Footwear	-6,331,893	-4,393,656
Embroidery	-	-
Freight	-235,312	-196,492
iPads	-	-
Sub contract expense	-17,442	-38,066
Orders	-350,420	-242,080
Total Cost of Goods	-6,935,067	-4,870,294
Gross Profit / (Loss)	2,975,571	4,352,263
Less Expenses		
Administration	-584,801	-587,887
Consultancy Fees	-148,839	-190,859
Depreciation - Leasehold Improvements	-12,498	-9,149
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	-22,277	-22,277
Depreciation - ROU	-41,843	-40,485
Employee Benefits	-1,921,160	-1,855,737
Fundraising	-37,128	-31,430
In Kind Employee and Rental Costs	-129,744	-129,744
Maintenance/Repairs	-17,496	-18,203
Other Expenses	-96,620	-69,822
Philanthropic Grants	0	-
Total Expenses	-3,012,406	-2,955,593
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	-36,835	1,396,670
Income tax Expense	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	-36,835	1,396,670

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

Collier Charitable Fund
 Frank Montagnese Foundation
 Freemasons Foundation Victoria
 Perpetual
 The Ian Potter Foundation
 The William Angliss Charitable Fund

In Kind Supporters

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



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