

STUDENT'S

CHOICE



**STATE
SCHOOLS'
RELIEF**

**Making a difference
in the lives of
Victorian children**

ABOUT US

State Schools' Relief (SSR) is a not for profit organisation that has been removing barriers to education for Victorian students since 1930. By providing new uniforms, shoes, and other essential educational items, children feel like they belong and are free to learn.

State Schools' Relief helps kids fit in. When kids they fit in, they learn. When they learn, they thrive. It's that simple!

WHY CHOOSE STUDENT'S CHOICE?

Participation in education is the main pathway out of poverty

The Student's Choice range is a social enterprise that allows us to continue in our mission of ensuring that Victorian state school students are able to fully engage in their learning and strengthen their educational outcomes. 100% of the profits from the sales of our Student's Choice label are returned to the organisation to further benefit disadvantaged kids.

- The Student's Choice uniform range exists to make sure that every young person is able to participate in their educational life with the same pride and dignity as their peers
- By providing our high-quality, identical uniform items instead of commercially branded items, this allows us to clothe three additional students
- The Student's Choice brand also contributes to SSR's sustainability, by positioning our organisation to support every child and young person that requires our assistance in the years to come

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OUR IMPACT

In 2019/2020 State Schools' Relief assisted 70,541 underprivileged Victorian state school students.



In 2019, the out-of-pocket cost for a child attending a state primary school in Melbourne was \$3,841, including \$328 for uniforms and \$825 for devices. For a child attending secondary school, the cost was \$5,368.

When these expenses are simply unmanageable for families, children are often excluded from school activities and curriculum which in turn increases the chances of bullying, disengagement and poor learning outcomes.⁽¹⁾

It's our belief that every Victorian child should have the opportunity to fully participate in their education, regardless of their financial circumstances. Our Student's Choice range helps make that a reality.

In the past four years, State Schools' Relief has spent \$25,629,557 million dollars on 769,557 educational items, creating a sense of inclusion and belonging for 229,090 young children.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Along with uniform items and footwear, State Schools' Relief can provide everything from underwear, socks and singlets to shoes, hats and swimwear. As well as glasses, textbooks and calculators for class, we're helping 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 more information visit www.stateschoolsrelief.org.au

(1) A State of Wellbeing Victorian Budget Submission 2020-21. Victorian Council of Social Service

HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are two options:

The way in which State Schools' Relief assistance works is that we provide support to any Victorian student attending a government school (primary, secondary or specialist) on the advice of the school.

Parents/carers will need to request an appointment with the school principal, assistant principal, or wellbeing/welfare coordinator discuss their current situation. The school is then able to place an application for assistance directly with us, on their behalf. All items will be delivered directly to the school in discrete, de-identified packaging ready for the parents/carers to collect.

- 1** Our first choice is to always provide kids with our Student's Choice uniforms, completely free of charge.
- 2** Where we are unable to provide specific uniform items (due to contractual agreements with uniform retailers, i.e. blazers, tunics, etc.) we will provide a voucher to assist with the cost. In this instance, a small gap-payment may be required to cover the full cost of the item/s; this amount can differ according to the items needed.



GOVERNMENT FUNDING

DONATIONS

STUDENT'S CHOICE RANGE



STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF



When we substitute a commercial brand for our Student's Choice uniforms - our money can be spread further. Much further! We can clothe 3 more children.*



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



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

If families/carers are experiencing any kind of financial or personal difficulties, State Schools' Relief is here to support.

There is no red tape or any requirements to meet in order to access our assistance. Parents or carers simply need to discuss their situation with the appropriate school personnel and the school will apply for assistance on their behalf.

Any student attending a Victorian government school is eligible for SSR assistance, from Prep through to Year 12.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CASE STUDY

Three years ago, Cranbourne West Primary School realised that many of their students were wearing Students' Choice uniforms having received support through the State Schools' Relief.

Julie Brooke, the Business Manager at Cranbourne West Primary School, explored the Students' Choice range available through State Schools' Relief and made the decision to offer their whole school community the uniform. *'We decided to change to Students' Choice uniforms as our previous provider was twice as expensive and difficult for families to afford'.* And they couldn't be happier with the results.

'The experience has been fantastic! All the kids are now in proper uniforms and the quality is just as good as before'. The parents are happy with the quality and the range, and the kids are happy to all be in the same uniform. Julie has been so pleased, she said she would encourage that other schools also make the change.

Julie Brooke

School Uniform Manager,
Cranbourne West Primary School





STUDENT'S
✓ CHOICE

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I wish you could see the difference your hard work and SSR has made to the students at our school. Because of the work you do the many students I have, that come from homes with very little, now look the same as everyone and are so proud of themselves when they come to school in their new uniforms. For some they are the best clothes they will own for their whole school life.

Thanks again for all your hard work.

State Schools' Relief

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