



**STATE
SCHOOLS'
RELIEF**



Making a difference
in the lives of
Victorian students

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 93 Years of Service

SSR



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

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

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

Our practical support ensures that students can attend school with a greater sense of belonging and improved self-esteem, which in turn assists in improved engagement and educational outcomes. In the past year, 1328 schools accessed our assistance – that's 84% of all Victorian government schools.

Our Values



Equality

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

Dignity

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

Belonging

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

Our History

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

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

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

Life Members

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

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

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Our History | 2 |
| Contents | 3 |
| President's Report | 4 |
| CEO Report | 6 |
| Outcomes of Our Work | 8 |
| Impact of Our Work | 9 |
| Student's Choice | 10 |
| Uniforms for Purpose | 12 |
| Governor's Message | 13 |
| The Victorian State Schools Spectacular | 14 |
| A Look Back in History, 1983 | 16 |
| Facts & Figures | 18 |
| Support Provided to LGAs | 20 |
| iPad Program | 22 |
| Glasses for Kids Program | 24 |
| Travel Passes Program | 28 |
| Victorian Flood Support | 30 |
| Impact of Our Work | 31 |
| Our Board Members | 34 |
| Financial Performance | 36 |
| Partnerships, Support & Fundraising | 39 |

President's Report

In the past year, State Schools' Relief has continued to have an enduring impact on the lives of many thousands of Victorian government school students and their families.

Our Affordable School Uniforms Program reached a milestone, providing 300,000 uniform items to students, marking the highest number of applications in our 93-year history.

The impact of our initiatives extended well beyond uniforms. The Glasses for Kids program provided glasses to thousands of children with vision impairment, addressing issues that might otherwise have gone undiagnosed. Additionally, we distributed travel passes, iPads for non-verbal students and flood relief packages to those in need.

In the realm of school partnerships, our efforts to promote the State Schools' Relief's Student's Choice label gained traction, offering affordable uniform options for families while generating valuable funds to further support our welfare programs.

Recognising the increasing demand, we undertook essential process improvements to bolster our logistical and governance capacities. These included implementing voucher automation, adopting Shopify point-of-sale technology, enhancing communications with schools and parents, and eliminating the parents' gap payment.

Our commitment to excellence extended to strengthening our leadership team and transitioning from reliance on a largely part-time workforce to building a more permanent team with expertise ranging across finance, warehouse logistics, procurement and sales.

Advancements were also made in our finance and data systems, aiming for real-time reporting, cost efficiencies and enhanced planning capabilities.

In a strategic move for the future, State Schools' Relief transitioned from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. This transformation involved introducing a new Board structure, Constitution, Board Charter and a Key Stakeholder Group, to foster lasting partnerships and mutual understanding of our goals and impact.

These process improvements are designed to streamline the overall experience for our schools, students and families, ensuring we meet the demands of our growing organisation.

We bid farewell to esteemed members of our board; Esther Wood, Tony Ross, Maria Shearn, Sean Collier and our Vice President Christine Stewart. I would like to sincerely thank these departing board members for their dedication and enduring commitment to supporting State Schools' Relief's mission. Their service exemplifies the highest level of dedication to making a difference in the lives of students and we are profoundly grateful for their leadership, guidance and advocacy.

None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support from our sponsors, particularly from the Victorian Government, in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education.

The renewed and significantly increased funding for our Affordable Schools Uniforms and Glasses for Kids Program secures our mission for the next four years.

Special recognition is due to our CEO, Sue Karzis whose unwavering advocacy and expert leadership continue to guide her dedicated team in providing the best possible service to schools, students and the wider community.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all my fellow board members for their contribution this year. Through the

collective support of our board, stakeholders, volunteers, sponsors and internal team, State Schools' Relief continues to be a beacon of hope and support for so many Victorian students and families in these challenging economic times.

Susan Mann

President



“

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CEO Report

The 2022/23 financial year has been a year of innovation and evolution for State Schools' Relief. The launch of our new five-year strategy, with a focus on efficiency, agility, flexibility and sustainability has enabled the Board and Executive to lay foundations for the future which will deliver continued and enhanced support to students in need.

Significant changes to our structure which are well underway will deliver even stronger governance and accountability into the future. To continue its evolution into an organisation with best practice governance, SSR has begun the process of converting from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. This will enable SSR to better serve the scale and nature of its current and future activities.

Innovation in our systems and processes has also been the focus of our efforts over the last year. The automation of our applications has resulted in faster turnaround times, meaning that those needing our support are now receiving it more promptly. The automation journey will continue to be a focus across all areas at SSR, to ensure that our service delivery continues to improve and scale up to meet the exponential increase in demand.

Our social enterprise, which now services over 50 schools as a uniform provider, has achieved its aim to deliver more affordable uniforms for families struggling with the cost-of-living pressures, as well as delivering any profits back to our charitable cause, further supporting students in government schools throughout Victoria.

The scale and impact of our support has seen SSR deliver its biggest year on record. SSR fulfilled a total of 74,397 applications for support and delivered 305,243 items to students in government schools. **There is no other organisation throughout Australia that has the ability and capacity to deliver tangible items to students in need.** The importance of delivering the resources which students require quickly and seamlessly cannot be understated – those in need are able to access tangible support when they need it and it arrives at their school anonymously, thus maintaining every student's dignity. SSR has in the last year supported 1,328 schools. Victoria has a total of 1571 government schools, so SSR has supported over 84% of all government schools, and this is something that our staff and Board can feel very proud of.

In addition to the Affordable School Uniforms Program, SSR has facilitated travel passes, iPads for nonverbal students, flood relief and the Glasses for Kids program. All these programs have targeted the most vulnerable students in the state, and many have had transformational outcomes for those involved.

The Glasses for Kids program will conclude this year, meeting the target of visiting 340 of the most disadvantaged schools in Victoria. In the last year of the program, 6,698 students were screened, and 1,389 pairs of glasses prescribed and sent directly to participating schools, with the aim of removing vision impairments as a barrier to engagement with education.



“ The scale and impact of our support has seen SSR deliver its biggest year on record. SSR fulfilled a total of **74,397** applications for support and delivered **305,243** items to students in government schools. There is no other organisation throughout Australia that has the ability and capacity to deliver tangible items to students in need. ”

Thank you to the Department of Education for their continued support of this program. This partnership is vital in ensuring that students with vision impairments are not left behind and it is a program that is truly transformative. We look forward to commencing the new Glasses for Kids program in 2024.

Our “Finding their Voice” program has been one of the most impactful programs that I have had the privilege of being involved with. It is a human right for every child and young person to have a voice, and yet, for nonverbal students whose financial circumstances preclude the ability to purchase technology, their agency, their voice, and their self-mastery can be severely compromised. In the last year alone, SSR was able to facilitate support to students in specialist schools who are nonverbal with over 450 iPads provided. These iPads will become the voice of these students, allowing them to engage with their teachers, family and local community thus enabling greater agency and engagement. I would like to thank Bank First, ASCA and Perpetual for their support in making this happen. This program requires funding annually and without support we will not be able to run it in the future, so we are grateful to all of those who have helped us make a difference to nonverbal students.

SSR has a proud history of assisting Victorian students. We could not carry out this integral work without the ongoing support received from the state government. There is no other organisation like SSR in any other state or territory, and the assistance provided to over 74,000 students this past year is vital and transformational. Other key philanthropic supporters include the Frank Montagnese Foundation, The Women of The University

Fund, The William Angliss Charitable Fund, Australian Communities Foundation, State Trustees Australia Foundation and the Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust. The in-kind support provided by Holding Redlich, the Department of Transport and Planning Victoria and OneSight has also greatly assisted SSR to fulfil its mission.

SSR has a small but dedicated staff body who embody our values and work tirelessly to fulfil our mission to ensure that young people can access education, regardless of their background or circumstances. When young people feel like they belong, they have the opportunity to thrive and the values of SSR are embodied by our people.

Finally, I would like to thank Sue Mann, the Chair of the Board of SSR as well as the wider Board for their support and efforts in driving strategic change that will better position the organisation for future growth and sustainability.

I look forward to the year ahead and achieving even greater outcomes for students in need.

Sue Karzis

Chief Executive Officer



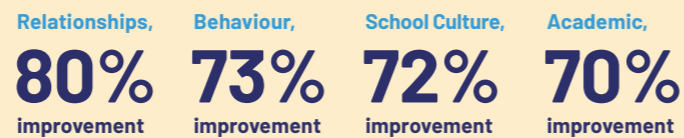
Outcomes of our work

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.

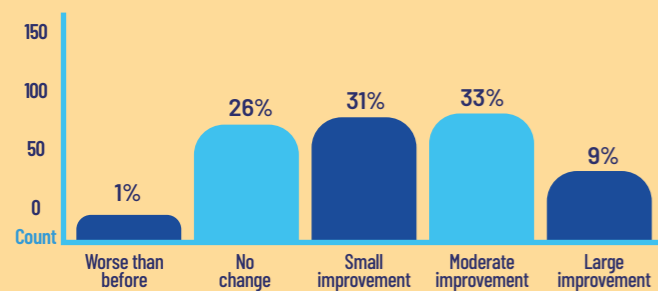
The student-level outcomes that were most positively impacted by the ASU program were students' relationship with their peers, their relationships with teachers and other staff with 80% of respondents indicating a significant improvement. Similarly, the positive impact on students' behaviour in class saw 73% of respondents indicating

significant improvements. The overall School culture, connectedness to the school and the students' social environments along with academic results were also strongly impacted, with significant improvements of 72% and 70% of respondents indicating a large improvement since students received support.



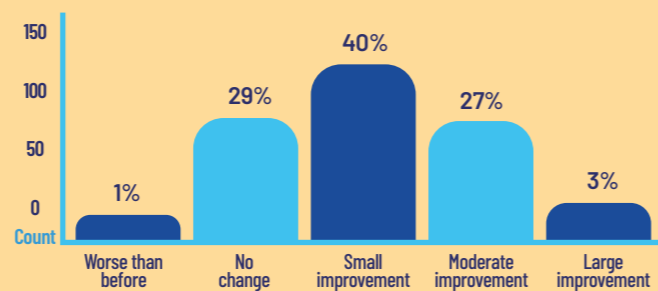
Behaviour ^{UP} 73%

Overall, 73% of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' behaviour in class showed an improvement.



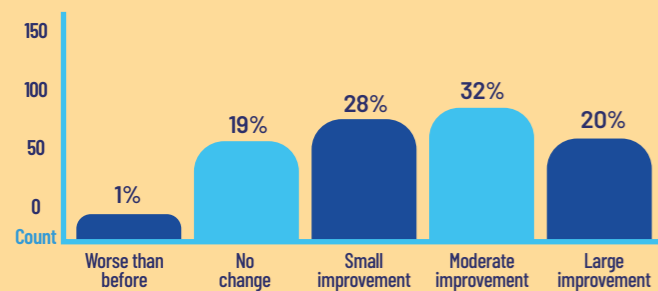
Academic ^{UP} 70%

70% of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' academic results showed an improvement.



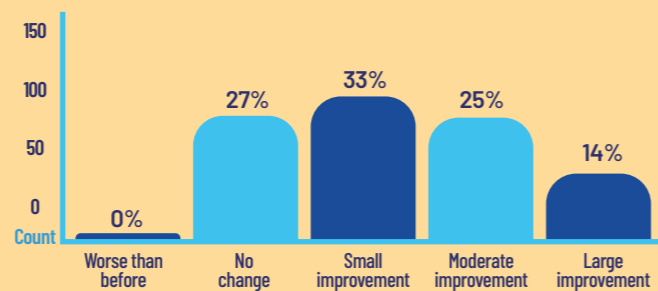
Relationship with Peers ^{UP} 80%

80% of respondents indicated that since receiving support from the ASU program, students' relationships with their peers showed an improvement.



School Culture ^{UP} 72%

Two in three (72%) respondents indicated that since students received support from the ASU program, the school's culture and/or social environment showed an improvement.



“

We are a school with families who are mostly from low socio-economic backgrounds. Due to increased cost of living over the last couple of years, many of our families are really struggling financially. **Having the support of SSR has helped enormously and means that the students can come to school dressed appropriately, just like their peers. This helps make them feel comfortable and more confident about themselves.** Families are always so appreciative of the assistance SSR provides. ”

Impact of our Work

“

We have recently had a family transfer into our school - history of extensive agency intervention, trauma background, mum is a single parent with an intellectual disability. **She was close to tears when we were able to support her with SSR's assistance** as she had been worried sick about the financial burden of sourcing all new uniforms. ”

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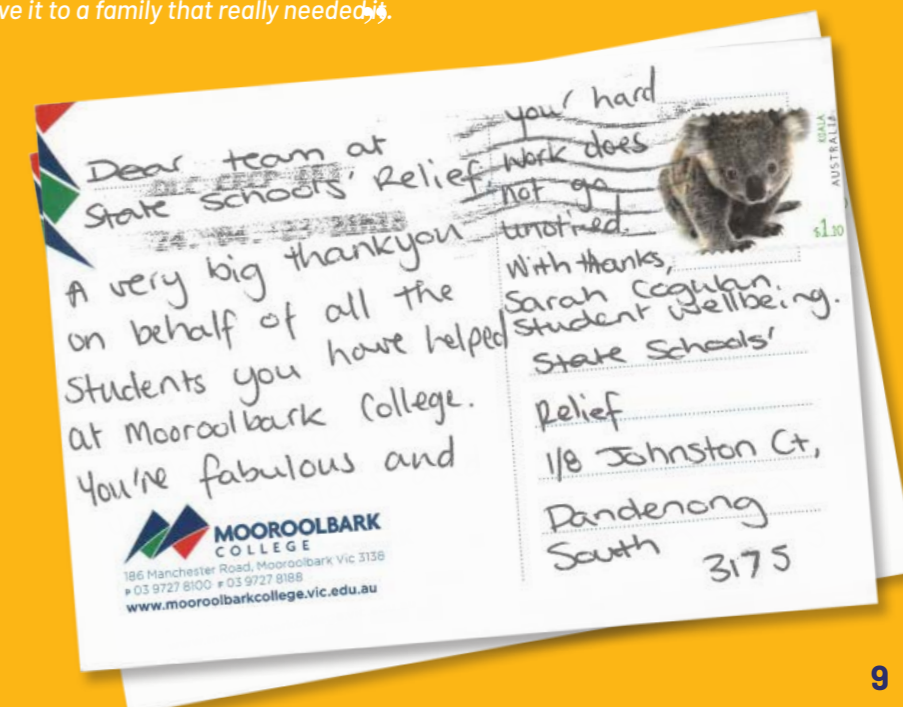
We have a student with cerebral palsy whose family is homeless. He is unable to tie his shoelaces so we order the velcro runners. Due to his homelessness he goes through shoes very quickly. **It has been a great benefit to be able to order these shoes for him at no cost to the family.** ”

“

The uniforms supplied to our families **allow the students to be part of the school without any differences** in what they wear to school each day. This is great for inclusion. ”

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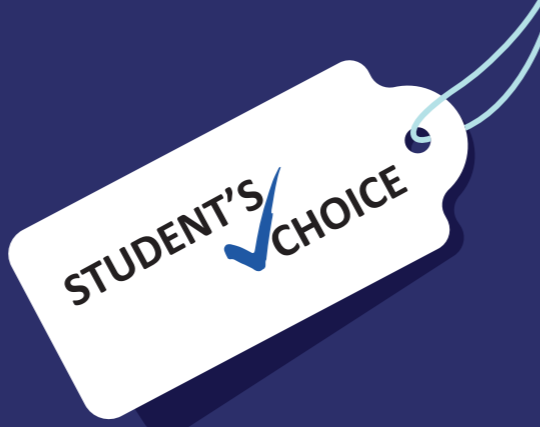
We have a family struggling with financial difficulties, I contacted them to ask if it would be okay if I ordered them new clothing and shoes through SSR. They are the type of family that would not ask for help even when they need it but would graciously help other families and support the school community. **I ordered new shoes, clothes and a hat for their two students. They are so happy and excited to have brand new items and not second-hand ones that are falling apart.** They feel like they belong at the school having the correct clothing and are very thankful. It was so nice to give it to a family that really needed it.



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 directly to the students which closely resembles the branded items largely used by other students.



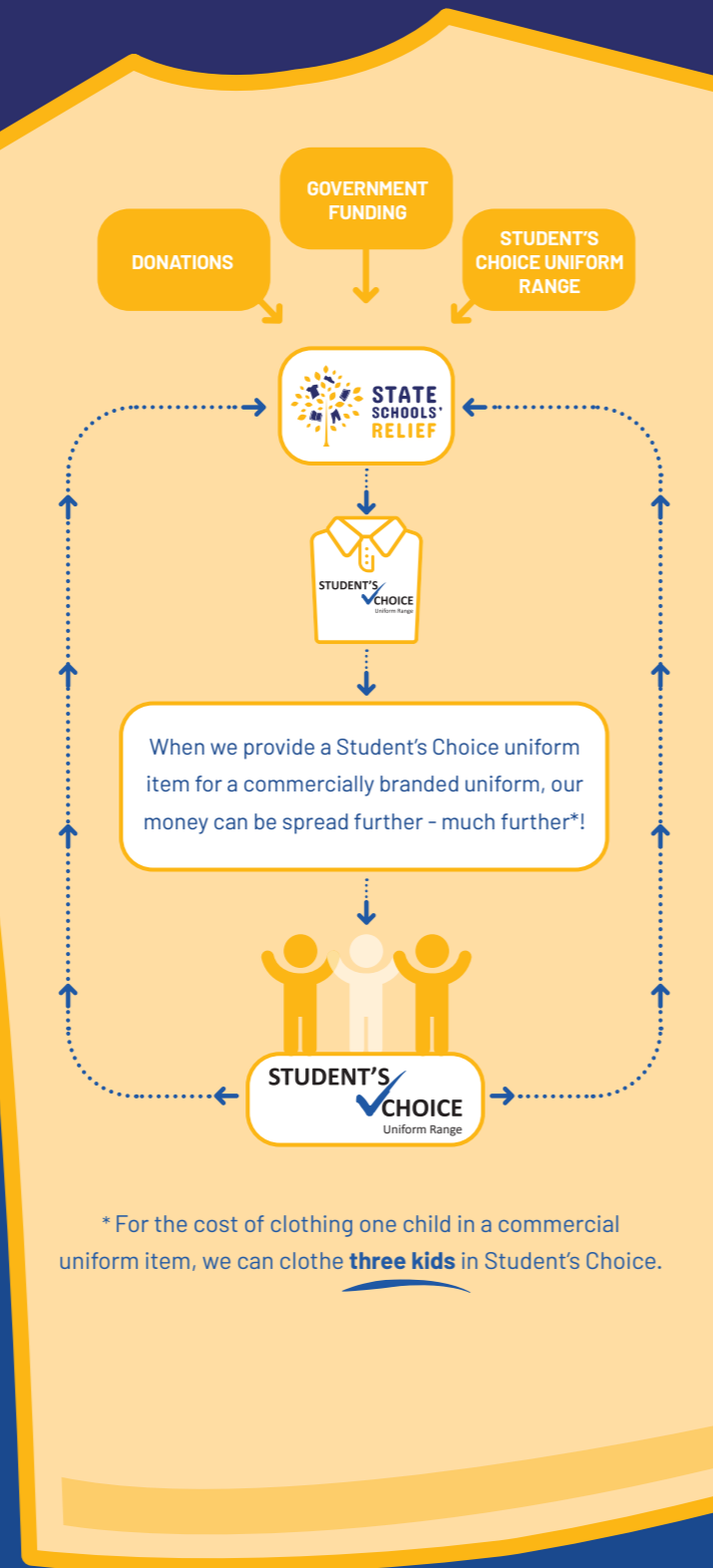
There are many benefits to this. It ensures the items received by students are free of charge, there's no additional financial contribution required, and crucially, it enables more students to benefit from our support.

Why choose Student's Choice?

The Student's Choice range is also 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.



Our Impact



74,000+

applications for student support in 2022-23

1,328

schools supported in 2022-23

\$7.1M+

worth of essential items distributed in 2022-23

\$45M+

worth of essential items distributed since 2016

Savings to government - through the efficiency of State Schools' Relief model

A benefit to the Victorian Government of State Schools' Relief model, is that it provides access to goods at wholesale prices. That provides a saving to government over the alternative of providing transfer payments or cash equivalents to families, that they could use to purchase items at retail prices. State Schools' Relief accesses goods at wholesale prices, far cheaper than families could access on their own.

305,000

items distributed 2022-23*

57%

average saving accessed by State Schools' Relief for essential items vs retail price.

\$3.8M+

savings to government in 2022-23 from accessing wholesale price.#



*Figure excludes items from Glasses for Kids program.
#SVA analysis. Total savings figure calculated by comparing State Schools' Relief (SSR) wholesale purchase prices with the Recommended Retail Price (RRP) of items. The total wholesale value of items provided by SSR in 2022-23 was used as a base (\$7.1M total goods, minus \$4M SSR provided as vouchers, amounting to \$3.1M in wholesale purchases). The average savings proportion was then applied, to determine \$3.8M saved.

Uniforms for Purpose



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

What is it?

Student's Choice is a social enterprise which retails uniform items and shoes to schools and returns any surplus back to the organisation, further supporting students who need it most.

State Schools' Relief's mission for over 90 years has been to support Victorian state school students by removing barriers to education. Building on our knowledge and experience of school uniforms, we launched our own label, Student's Choice in 2015.

Our social enterprise exists to deliver on our social mission - that is to ensure that students can engage with education regardless of their circumstances. 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.

The Student's Choice brand provides affordable, high quality school uniform items and footwear to schools and families right across Victoria. We have steadily grown our range of items from uniforms to include workwear suited for VCE Vocational Major students.

The social enterprise also provides a means for us to diversify our income streams, ensuring the organisation can continue to support Victorian students and their families for many years to come.

What is its impact?

Student's Choice has seen steady growth, with all profits returned back into the social purpose of State Schools' Relief.

The social enterprise now retails to over 50 schools and operates a newly built retail space in Dandenong South to sell directly to students and their families.



Governor's Message

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

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

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

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

Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC
Governor of Victoria



Special Projects

THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

SPECTACULAR

For the third consecutive year, State Schools' Relief was proud to partner with the Victorian State Schools Spectacular and be appointed as the preferred supplier of the official 2023 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 100 schools. For some that were unable to meet the cost of the merchandise, SSR was able to provide these free of charge.

Another successful VSSS event for 2023 and one that we very much look forward to continuing in 2024!



“ In keeping with our values of equality, dignity and belonging, SSR was proud to support students in over 100 schools. For some that were unable to meet the cost of the merchandise, SSR was able to provide these free of charge. ”

A look back in history

1983

STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF COMMITTEE

Senior S.S.R.C. Officer: C.A. Mason Clothing Relief: 428 5300
Donations & Rag Appeals: 428 8581

The STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF COMMITTEE is the organization by which the pupils and teachers of our State Schools try to ensure that no child in a State School will suffer cold or wet or ridicule because of poor clothes. Immediate relief is available to country and city children who are pupils in Primary, High and Technical Schools.

If a Principal of a school is satisfied that a child needs clothes or shoes, application can be made on a form obtainable from 21 Lincoln St Richmond or by a telephone call to 428 5300.

OUR FAMILY IS A LARGE ONE

During the last S.S.R.C. year (1981 - 2), 5042 pupils received new clothes and footwear. There were 2553 children from Primary Schools, 1783 from High Schools and 706 from Technical Schools.

The items provided included:-

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 332 frocks | 1001 raincoats | 5054 prs socks |
| 1277 skivvies | 542 shirts | 2730 jumpers |
| 133 shorts | 275 skirts | 693 T-shirts |
| 3254 prs shoes | 7676 underwear | 2153 trousers |

- a total of 25,120 items.

In addition, where items of secondary school uniform cannot be met from stock, a purchase order may be provided or the cost subsidised. This practice gave new clothes (1223 items) to 1095 children this year.

The cost of items supplied this year plus purchase orders was \$109,302. Last year this cost was \$116,576.

Over 85% of our income is raised via the Social Service activities of pupils - the remainder being donated by private individuals and interested organizations. A growing source of income comes by way of our Rag/Used Clothing Appeals. Last year this collection provided enough funds to clothe 2157 children. Metropolitan Primary Schools have two collections each year. We invite all other schools wishing to participate to phone for further details. Donations of lost property and unsold fete clothes are also a valuable source of revenue. Rag/Used Clothing can be carried FREIGHT FREE by rail to WEST RICHMOND Station.

Victorian State School pupils and teachers are unique in their determination that no child will suffer because of poor clothes. This year, because of inflation, they will need to raise \$150,000.

President 1983

Miss Lesley Ogden,
P.S. 4815 Frankston Heights,
Box 258,
Frankston. 3199

Treasurer 1983

Mr David Monkhouse,
P.S. 2837,
De Carle St,
Moreland. 3058



“

The state Schools' Relief Committee is the organization by which the pupils and teachers of our State Schools try to ensure that no child in a State School will suffer cold or wet or ridicule because of poor clothes. Immediate relief is available to country and city children who are pupils in Primary, High and Technical Schools.

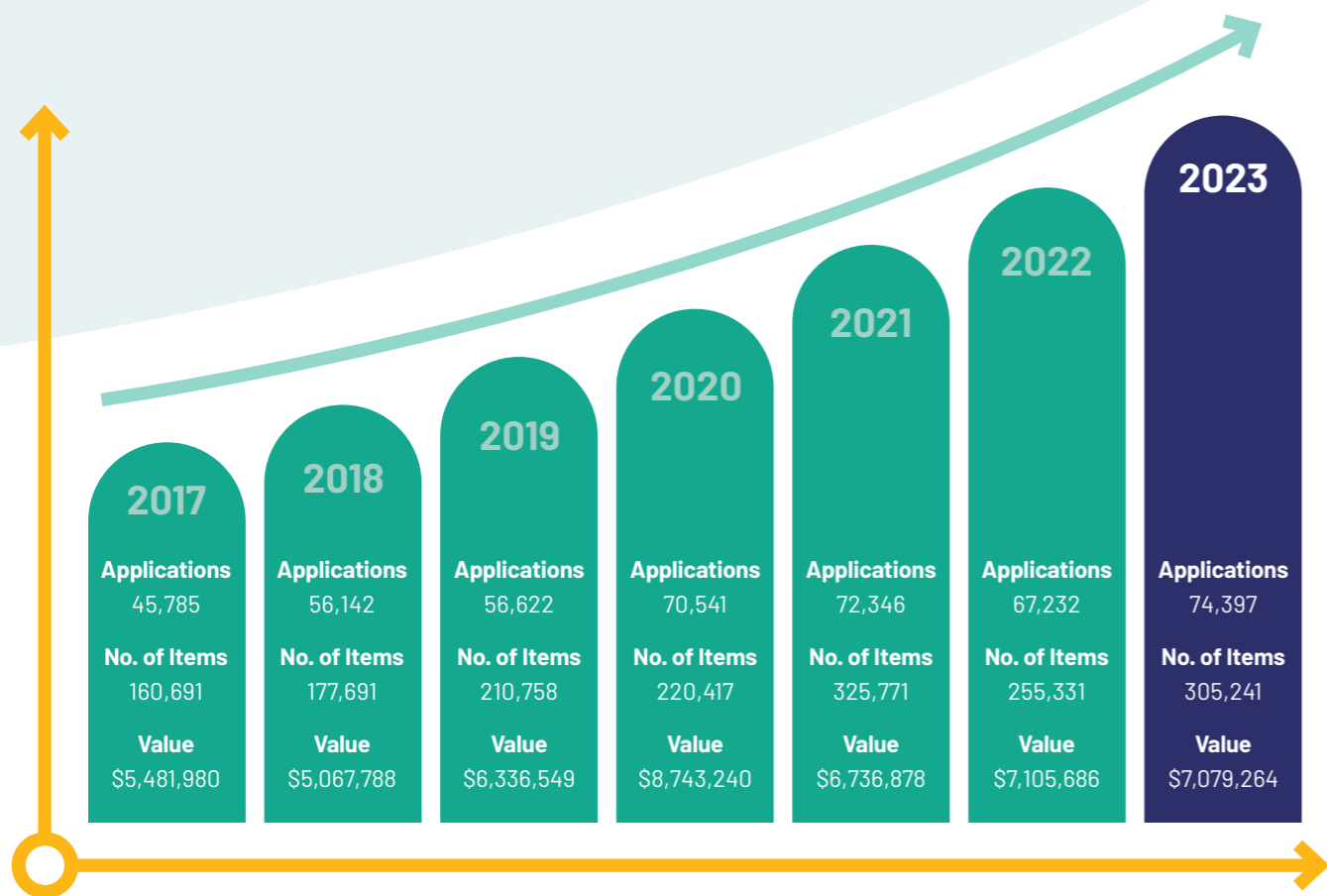
State Schools' Relief Committee 1983

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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**.



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 15,244 travel passes supplied | 47,647 pairs of pants and shorts | 26,000 pairs of school shoes & work boots |
| over 35,000 socks, briefs and singlets | 2,474 stationery packs | 1,060 calculators |
| 1,414 school bags | 4,486 hats & beanies | 7,765 swimwear items, towels, caps & goggles |



In 2022/2023, we approved **74,397** applications for support to disadvantaged Victorian state school students.

84% of Victorian state schools were assisted in 2022/2023!
That's 1,328 schools

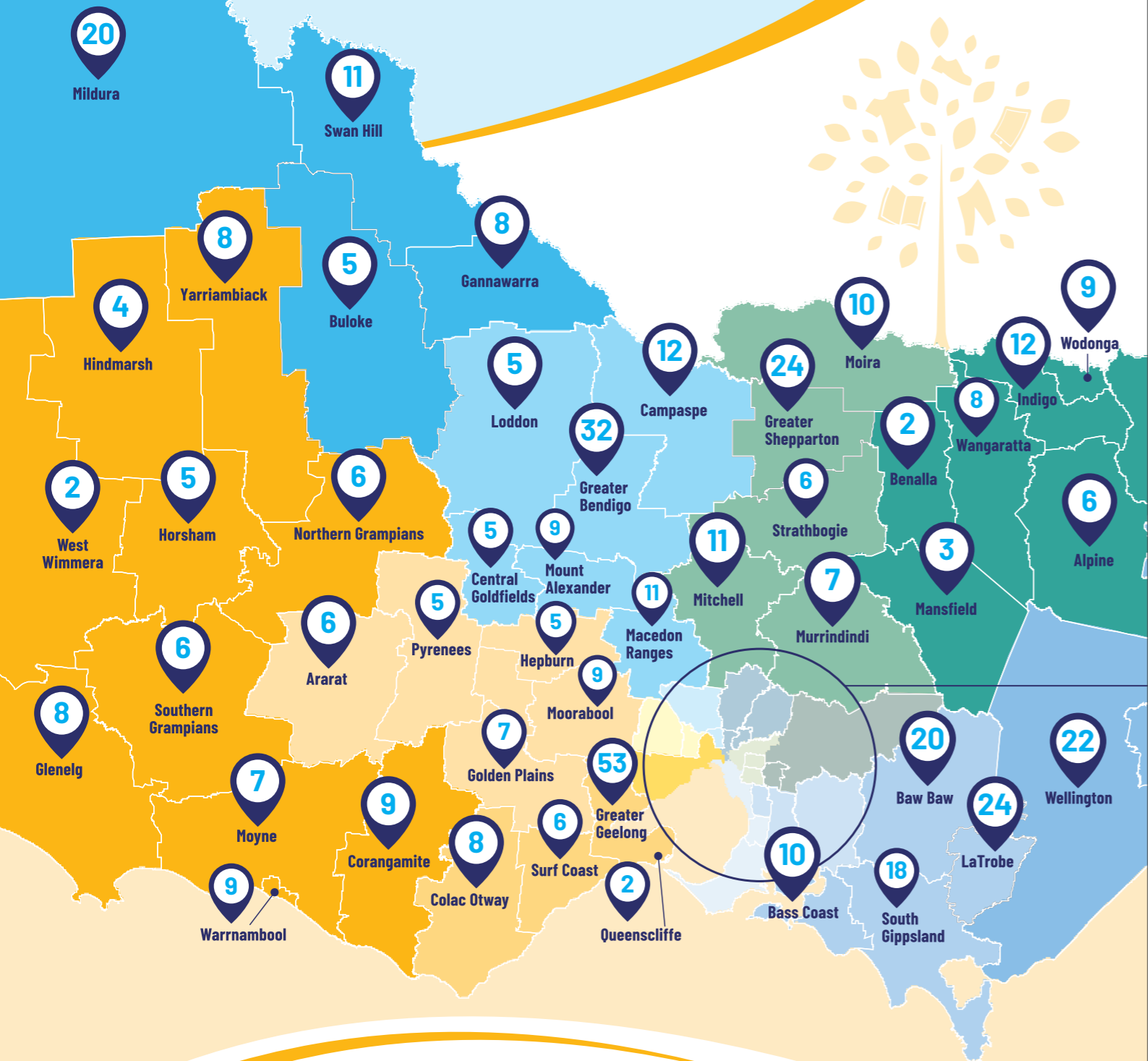
Utilisation of our services in 2022/23: 70 x P-12 schools, 931 x Primary schools, 245 x Secondary schools and 82 x Specialist/Language schools.

Average cost per application
\$95.16

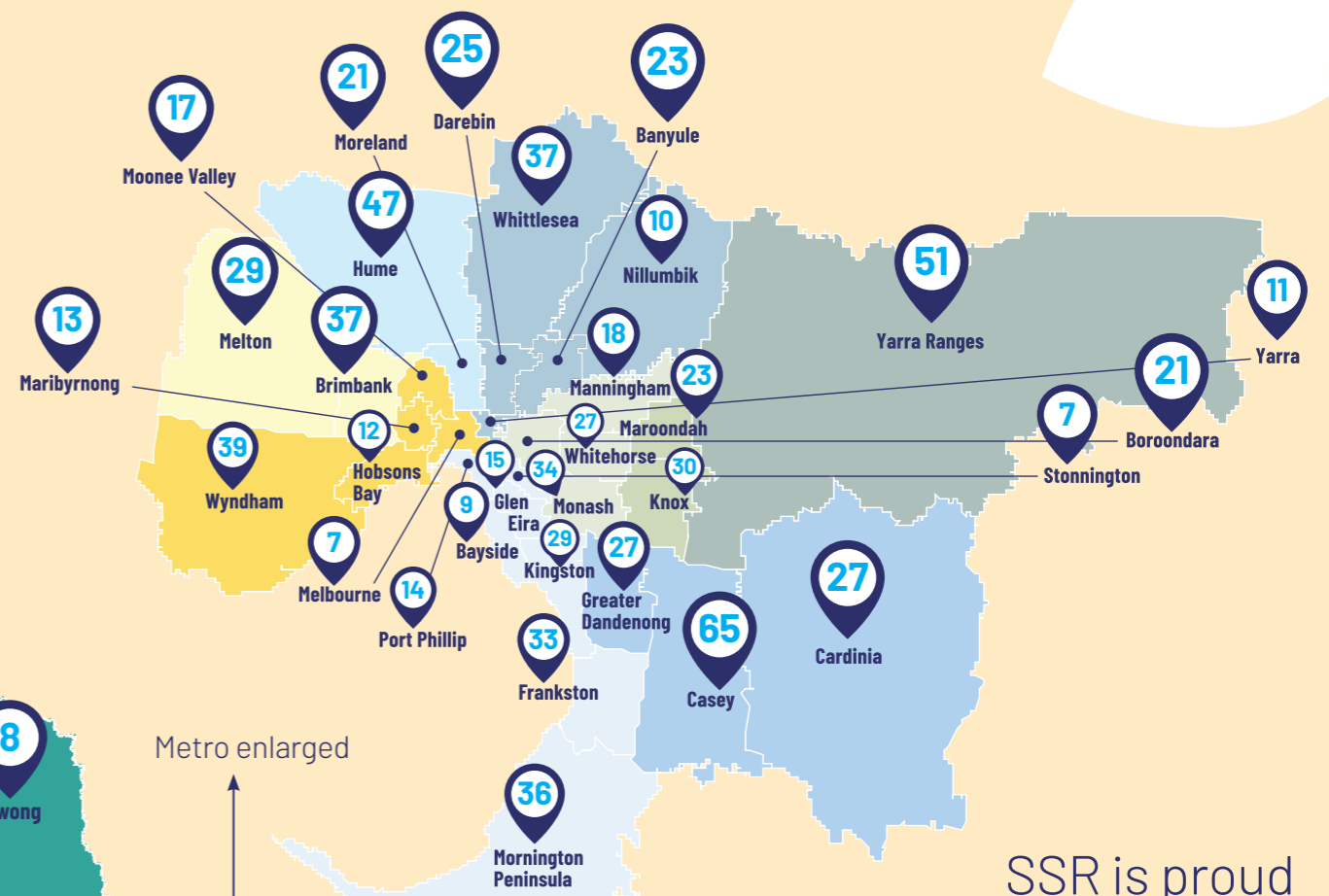
Average cost per item
\$23.19

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 1,328 schools** throughout Victoria in 2022/2023.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Alpine (S) | 6 | Gannawarra (S) | 8 | Mansfield (S) | 3 | Queenscliffe (B) | 2 |
| Ararat (RC) | 6 | Glen Eira (C) | 15 | Maribyrnong (C) | 13 | South Gippsland (S) | 18 |
| Ballarat (C) | 29 | Glenelg (S) | 8 | Maroondah (C) | 23 | Southern Grampians (S) | 6 |
| Banyule (C) | 23 | Golden Plains (S) | 7 | Melbourne (C) | 7 | Stonnington (C) | 7 |
| Bass Coast (S) | 10 | Greater Bendigo (C) | 32 | Melton (C) | 29 | Strathbogie (S) | 6 |
| Baw Baw (S) | 20 | Greater Dandenong (C) | 27 | Mildura (RC) | 20 | Surf Coast (S) | 6 |
| Bayside (C) | 9 | Greater Geelong (C) | 53 | Mitchell (S) | 11 | Swan Hill (RC) | 11 |
| Benalla (RC) | 2 | Greater Shepparton (C) | 24 | Moira (S) | 10 | Towong (S) | 8 |
| Boroondara (C) | 21 | Hepburn (S) | 5 | Monash (C) | 34 | Wangaratta (RC) | 8 |
| Brimbank (C) | 37 | Hindmarsh (S) | 4 | Moonee Valley (C) | 17 | Warrnambool (C) | 9 |
| Buloke (S) | 5 | Hobsons Bay (C) | 12 | Moorabool (S) | 9 | Wellington (S) | 22 |
| Campaspe (S) | 12 | Horsham (RC) | 5 | Moreland (C) | 21 | West Wimmera (S) | 2 |
| Cardinia (S) | 27 | Hume (C) | 47 | Mornington Peninsula (S) | 36 | Whitehorse (C) | 27 |
| Casey (C) | 65 | Indigo (S) | 12 | Mount Alexander (S) | 9 | Whittlesea (C) | 37 |
| Central Goldfields (S) | 5 | Kingston (C) | 29 | Moyne (S) | 7 | Wodonga (C) | 9 |
| Colac-Otway (S) | 8 | Knox (C) | 30 | Murrindindi (S) | 7 | Wyndham (C) | 39 |
| Corangamite (S) | 9 | Latrobe (C) | 24 | Nillumbik (S) | 10 | Yarra (C) | 11 |
| Darebin (C) | 25 | Loddon (S) | 5 | Northern Grampians (S) | 6 | Yarra Ranges (S) | 51 |
| East Gippsland (S) | 22 | Macedon Ranges (S) | 11 | Port Phillip (C) | 14 | Yarriambiack (S) | 8 |
| Frankston (C) | 33 | Manningham (C) | 18 | Pyrenees (S) | 5 | | |



State Schools' Relief iPad Program 2023

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 fourth iteration of this transformational program was rolled out during Term 1, 2023 and all specialist schools were invited to apply for assistance on behalf of their non-verbal students.

Due to the generosity of our major funding partners, Perpetual, Bank First and ASCA, we were able to provide 452 iPads & heavy-duty iPad covers, plus 114 x iTunes vouchers @ \$300 each to non-verbal students from 58 schools, across 48 LGAs*.

Once again, 2023 saw us exceed the number of iPads provided to students in 2022 - and we intend on increasing our reach even further in 2024.

“
2023 saw us exceed the number of iPads provided to students in 2022! And, we intend on increasing our reach even further in 2024.
”



Perpetual

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).



Our Glasses for Kids program has almost completed its service delivery for the 2020-23 program. The program had intended to be complete by June, however the remaining 15 schools were rescheduled due to the long-lasting impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite an interrupted couple of years, the program continued at full capacity in 2022, Term 3 with the team delivering the program to 121 schools throughout 36 LGAs by June 2023.

Providing screening, testing and glasses to students in need remained our priority, with 6,698 students participating and 1,389 pairs of glasses prescribed with the aim of improving eye health and removing vision impairments as a barrier to educational engagement.

We are pleased to announce the state government has awarded funding to State Schools' Relief to deliver the Glasses for Kids program again between 2024 and 2027. We are extremely proud of the vital service we provide for up to 340 of the most disadvantaged state schools and up to 40,000 students.

Heading into the final 15 schools of the current program, it is with gratitude that we recognise our supporters including the Department of Education, in particular the team at School Operations and State-wide Services Division, program staff and partner optometrists.

Program Outcomes

121 Participating schools
(48 metro and 73 regional)

7,437 Consent forms received
(52% of targeted students)

6,698 Vision screenings provided
(46% of consent forms received)

2,878 Comprehensive eye tests conducted
(43% of students screened)

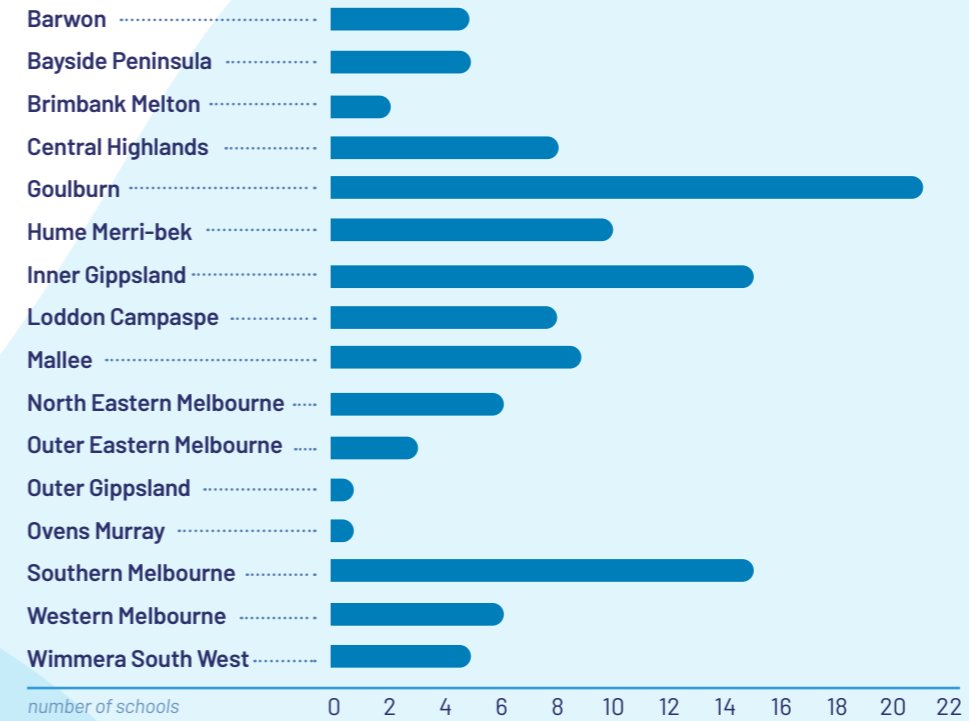
1,389 Pairs of glasses prescribed
(21% of students tested)

831 Referral letters written
(12% of students screened)

739 Students absent
(10% of students who provided consent forms)



Number of schools visited per area



Number of schools visited per region and Local Government Area

North Western Victoria

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Hume | 9 |
| Moreland | 1 |
| Campaspe | 1 |
| Central Goldfields | 3 |
| Greater Bendigo | 4 |
| Gannawarra | 4 |
| Mildura | 3 |
| Swan Hill | 2 |
| Banyule | 1 |
| Darebin | 1 |
| Whittlesea | 4 |

North Eastern Victoria

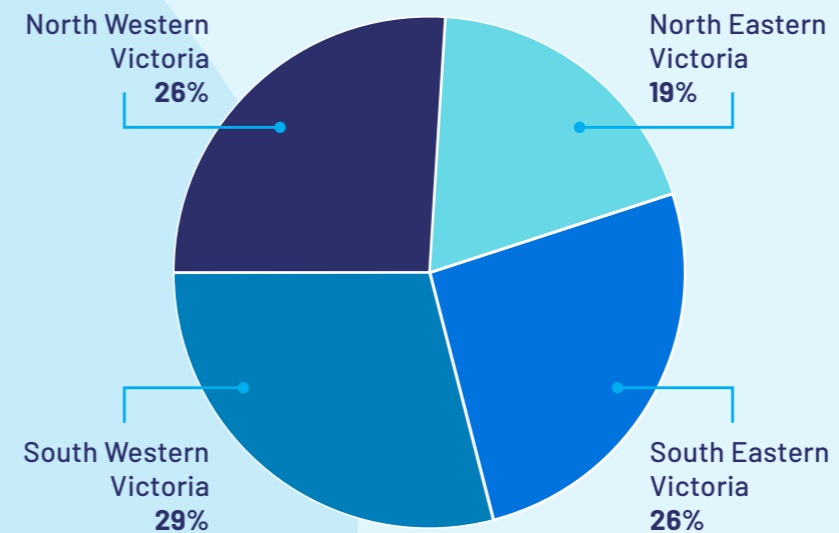
| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Greater Shepparton | 11 |
| Mitchell | 3 |
| Moira | 6 |
| Murrindindi | 1 |
| Maroondah | 1 |
| Yarra Ranges | 2 |

South Western Victoria

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Colac-Otway | 5 |
| Brimbank | 2 |
| Ararat | 1 |
| Ballarat | 7 |
| Hobsons Bay | 1 |
| Maribyrnong | 1 |
| Wyndham | 4 |
| Corangamite | 1 |
| Glenelg | 1 |
| Southern Grampians | 1 |
| Warrnambool | 1 |
| Yarriambiack | 3 |

South Eastern Victoria

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Frankston | 2 |
| Mornington Peninsula | 3 |
| Bass Coast | 3 |
| Baw Baw | 3 |
| Latrobe | 9 |
| Casey | 8 |
| Greater Dandenong | 7 |





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

- “ Thank you to the State Schools' Relief Glasses for Kids program! The benefits for our rural and remote school students, who received glasses, cannot be understated. They have been given a great opportunity and have shown benefits and growth! ”
- “ Our student is reading aloud more confidently and fluently than ever before with a heightened sense of self-efficacy which has impacted all learning areas. ”
- “ 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. ”
- “ Student has been very happy to wear new glasses and excited to be at school, although student was always cheerful, he now proudly shows others his glasses and we have seen a positive impact on his self-worth. ”



“ Four students were referred and importantly one student was found to have a condition that could have resulted in permanent partial/full loss of vision in one eye if he had not been screened. He is now receiving treatment that will hopefully rectify the problem. ”

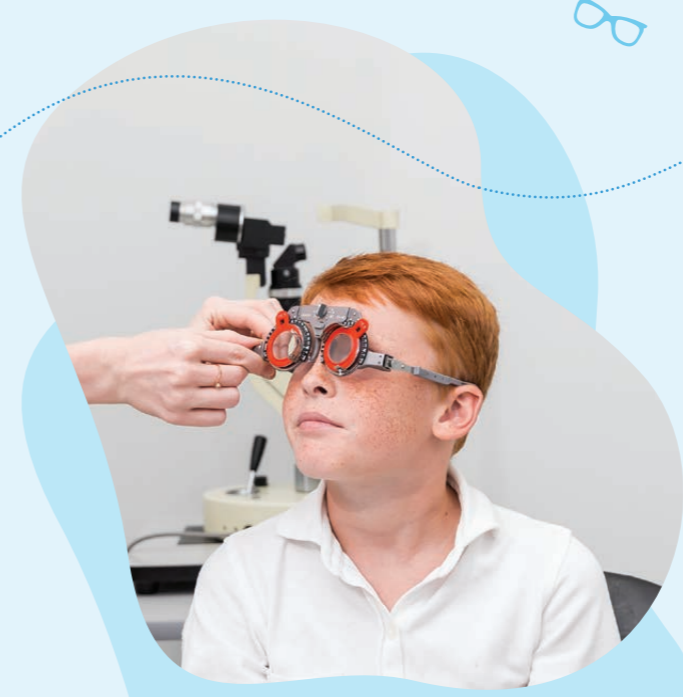


“ The program itself is invaluable in allowing access to supports that may not be known or accessible by many families. Such a great program for our students from low socio-economic families. Financial relief as well as education around the need to have your child's eyes checked was appreciated by our parents. ”

“ In our school where families are highly disadvantaged and this disadvantage is increasing, Glasses for Kids removed a barrier to students getting the healthcare outcomes they deserve. ”

“ This program has been fantastic for our school as we are remote/rural and the students have no access to an eye test locally. ”

“ I wish to compliment the team who attended the screening at our school as they were very kind and patient with the children and staff alike and an asset to the program. ”



“ The Glasses for Kids program is an amazing program. The staff are professional, kind and where able to make the children feel comfortable with the test. ”

State Schools' Relief

TRAVEL PASSES PROGRAM

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



Travel Passes are available for both primary and secondary school students who are experiencing hardship or crisis and may be at risk of disengaging from education.

Since the program was launched in October 2022, State Schools' Relief has processed over **5,000 applications** and has **distributed more than 21,000 Travel Passes**. Over 260 schools have participated in the Travel Passes program; 50% from secondary schools, 37% from primary schools and the balance of 13% from P-12 and specialist schools.

More than
21,000
Travel Passes
were distributed



The Travel Passes program has not only helped to ensure that students attend school but that they are able to participate in school activities and access support services like medical or counselling appointments.

Apart from travel distance, applications for travel assistance were submitted as a result of financial hardship, refugee status, homelessness, family violence, illness and/or a death in the family.

The Travel Passes program has received positive feedback from both schools and students.

over **260** schools have participated in the Travel Passes program

50%
from secondary schools

37%
from primary schools

13%
from P-12 & specialist schools

TOP 10

Local Government Areas that received Travel Passes

- 1. Casey 1,239
- 2. Kingston 633
- 3. Greater Dandenong 360
- 4. Latrobe 282
- 5. Darebin 256
- 6. Cardinia 191
- 7. Maroondah 190
- 8. Mitchell 189
- 9. Mornington Peninsula 164
- 10. Hume 108



Impactful Feedback

"Thanks SSR for the valuable work that you are doing. It is such an important program and has assisted the students who have been issued travel passes at Collingwood College to be able to travel to school via public transport. These students and their families cannot afford to buy the cards themselves and are truly grateful."

"I just wanted to say thank you! These travel passes made one of our students cry with relief. She is having such a rough time and you made the world of difference to her."

"Thank you for the wonderful support through this program. We truly are thankful and grateful"

"Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to be able to offer this to our students. Our students who have been given these passes travel to school by themselves, so this has given the families/carers assurance that they get to school. Students are also more likely to arrive at school on time. We would like to be able to offer this to a few of our other students as some live in Cranbourne, and travel in every day by bus and train. Thank you again."

"Student left her family home in Geelong due to abuse from her father. She is now living in Melbourne and is an independent student. She is travelling 2 hours to and from school daily on public transport. She is so determined to complete Yr 12 at Matthew Flinders as this has been her dream and then to look at a career in nursing. She is receiving no financial support from her family as they have disowned her due to cultural reasons. She is working two shifts at the local Coles and is investigating some support through Centrelink. We, here at school, admire the student for her sheer determination through adversity, hence looking at support too from SSR regarding a travel pass."



State Schools' Relief

2022 Victorian Flood Support

Many school communities were impacted by the 2022 Victorian floods. SSR facilitated support and resources to eligible families affected by the Victorian floods by providing a range of essential school supplies.

SSR was able to supply support which included:

- Uniforms
- Underwear, singlets and socks
- Footwear
- Stationery packs
- Digital items including headphones and laptops

Families were able to access SSR's support services directly through our attendance at the Flood Relief Centre's in Rochester and Shepparton as well as a dedicated telephone hotline established to streamline availability to the much-needed support services.

SSR contacted over 700 families, most of whom had registered their request for support directly through the dedicated hotline service. Over 450 packages were distributed to affected families that were eligible which included essential items from school uniforms to digital items such as laptops and headphones to enable students to return to school as soon as possible.

Victorian State Government funding allowed State Schools' Relief to meet the most urgent needs of our families and address the issue of students being able to return to school.

“Families were significantly affected by the October floods. Some students lost all of their school uniforms and books and others everything they owned, as per usual SSR stepped up and assisted our nearly 20 affected families with uniforms, stationery and a few laptops.”

“Uniforms were requested and vouchers provided and supplied the same day so our students were able to return to school sooner than expected.”

“The generosity shown to the students was greatly appreciated by them and their families in a time of significant trauma...thank you”

Impact of our Work

“All the assistance our students have received, has made such a difference not only to them, but also to their families - alleviating a great deal of stress. It has made such a positive impact on students by enabling them to come to school in the correct uniform and to not feel “different”. Thank you. ”

“The families at risk are really appreciative of the support for uniform and glasses. Some of these students were wearing ill-fitting and worn out uniforms. It really supports students wellbeing and confidence. ”

“SSR has made a huge difference to many of our students, but the one that I remember most is when **one of our students didn't come to school, because the family was unable to purchase new shoes** (he'd grown out of the old ones) and he didn't have a warm jacket. Through SSR we ordered a pair of new shoes and a puffer jacket. Our student came back to school straight after he received his new clothes. Thank you!! ”



“SSR is absolutely amazing, being able to offer struggling families access to uniform items and vouchers is so very much appreciated in our school community, it takes the pressure off families and ensures that our students **feel included**. The swim wear packs have been a favourite this year, I had two little girls who were overjoyed to have new bathers, goggles, towels etc so that they could attend the school swimming lessons next week, thank you for everything you do and all that you provide, it really does make a huge difference to our students lives. ”

“If it wasn't for SSR a lot of our students would go without. SSR provides the **necessary items for children to attend school and be dressed clean and similar to their peers**. The iPads and laptops allow students that would never have a device to own their own. We thank SSR for all their services that they offer our school and look forward to working together with them in 2024 to help our kids stay in education. ”

“

The support you give our students each and every day and service you provide is just exceptional, nothing ever a bother. The service you provide is so professional and helpful just to get on an email and your situation has been received and followed through if just fantastic. **You create a smile on the students face and you take the pressure of the parents in such a special way** who would go without making a real difference to the families. Just to see their faces when they for example come into the office giving you a big hug that they can see now and the improvement it will make on their health and wellbeing and schooling words cannot explain. The students are not feeling out of place. Well done without you guys the school system would be in a difficult situation not being able to help these families. Well done!! Five out of Five stars. ”



“

You have helped so many of our students and we are very grateful for your prompt delivery.

Recently I requested a change to available uniform items for our school. This was actioned immediately by a very friendly team member. Thank you so much. ”

“

SSR has enabled many of our students to access and engage in their education to the point of graduation. ”

“

One of our students lost everything when fleeing domestic violence. She came to the office on her first day of secondary school three days after the start of the year, in her pyjamas. **SSR was able to provide for this family and the student settled quickly in.** Without that support, her start would have been even more disrupted. ”



“

We are a school with families who are mostly from low-socioeconomic background. Due to increased cost of living over the last couple of years, many of our families are really struggling financially. Having the support of SSR has helped enormously and means that the students came to school dressed appropriately, just like their peers. **This helps make them feel comfortable and more confident about themselves. Families are always so appreciative of the assistance SSR provides.** ”

“

SSR is absolutely amazing, being able to offer struggling families access to uniform items and vouchers is so very much appreciated in our school community, **it takes the pressure off families and ensures that our students feel inclusive.** The swim wear packs have been a favourite this year, i had two little girls who were overjoyed to have new bathers, goggles, towels etc so that they could attend whole school swimming lessons next week, thank you for everything you do and all that you provide, it really does make a huge difference to our students lives. ”

“

SSR have helped so many of our students in many ways. I had one student that had needed shoes. She had been wearing shoes that were 2 sizes too big for the last 2-3 years as her family couldn't afford more. **When I ordered her shoes she was so grateful she cried. She had not had new shoes and ones that actually fitted.** ”

“

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“

We have two children living in care. The uniform and general smalls (undies, socks, singlets) that we are able to supply to them thanks to State Schools' Relief, have helped make them blend into the school and not stand out. Which is huge given their situation. Also, we have a lot of underprivileged families at our school and State Schools' Relief is of great assistance to many of their children. **We can not praise you enough for all the help and assistance SSR provides and the staff are always willing to help. Keep up the great work!!** ”



Impact of our Work



Our Board Members



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

Susan Mann, President

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

Christine Stewart, Vice President

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

Barry Smith

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

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.

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).

Martina Owen

Grad Cert. EBL (Education Business Leadership)

Robyn Wilson

D. Bus. Admin. Represents Business Managers Victoria.

Sean Collier

BBus, MBA, GAICD, FGIA. Elected member.

Tony Ross

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

Wilma Culton

B. Ed, M. Ed. Elected member.

| Board member meeting attendance 2022/2023 | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Member | Member Since | Status | Meetings Attended |
| Barry Smith | September 2011 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Cheryle Osborne | February 2016 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Christine Stewart | February 2010 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Colin Axup | February 2022 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Esther Wood | March 2009 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Gail McHardy | June 2022 | Current | 5 of 8 |
| Hacia Atherton | October 2021 | Resigned Oct 2022 | 0 of 8 |
| John Hurley | August 2007 | Resigned Oct 2022 | 2 of 8 |
| Maria Shearn | March 2013 | Current | 5 of 8 |
| Martina Owen* | October 2022 | Joined Oct 2022 | 6 of 8 |
| Robyn Wilson | April 2015 | Resigned Oct 2022 | 1 of 8 |
| Sean Collier | December 2020 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Susan Mann | October 2017 | Current | 8 of 8 |
| Tony Ross | December 2011 | Current | 6 of 8 |
| Wilma Culton | November 2012 | Current | 8 of 8 |

* Member joined during the 2022/23 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 2022/23 financial statement, please call 03 8769 8400 or email contact@ssr.net.au

| Statement of Financial Position | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | \$ | \$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2,576,362 | 4,507,062 |
| Trade and other receivables | 215,497 | 73,166 |
| Inventories | 1,199,741 | 851,586 |
| Other Assets | 1,008,630 | 93,713 |
| Total Current Assets | 5,000,230 | 5,525,527 |
| Non-current Assets | | |
| Financial Assets | 15 | 15 |
| Plant and Equipment | 112,828 | 89,790 |
| Intangible Assets | 9,465 | - |
| Right Use of Assets | 71,835 | 24,409 |
| Total non-current Assets | 194,143 | 114,214 |
| Total Assets | 5,194,373 | 5,639,741 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Trade and other payables | 1,037,584 | 1,380,873 |
| Lease Liability | 45,321 | 25,185 |
| Income in advance | - | - |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | 119,169 | 115,950 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,202,074 | 1,522,008 |
| Non Current Liabilities | | |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | 90,269 | 52,093 |
| Lease Liability | 27,383 | - |
| Total non current liabilities | 117,679 | 52,093 |
| Total liabilities | 1,319,753 | 597,567 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Retained earnings | 3,874,620 | 4,065,640 |
| Equity | 3,874,620 | 4,065,640 |

| Statement of Cash Flows | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | \$ | \$ |
| Receipts from donors and funding agencies | 9,147,180 | 9,988,275 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | -10,030,417 | -9,249,967 |
| Interest received | 72,270 | 12,737 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | -810,967 | 751,045 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Payment for property, plant and equipment | -53,101 | -24,423 |
| Payment for intangible assets | -9,465 | - |
| Investment in term deposits | -1,008,630 | - |
| Net cash used in investing activities | -1,071,196 | - |
| Cash flows from Financing Activities | | |
| Lease payments | -48,537 | -43,073 |
| Payment for intangible assets | - | - |
| Net cash flows from Financing Activities | -48,537 | -43,073 |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash held | -1,930,700 | 683,549 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 4,507,062 | 3,823,513 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | 2,576,362 | 4,507,062 |



| Statement of Profit & Loss | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue from continuing operations | \$ | \$ |
| Grants | 8,079,558 | 8,879,857 |
| Corporate Sponsorship | - | - |
| Finance Income | - | - |
| Fundraising - Contributions | - | - |
| Fundraising - Events | 766,095 | 575,440 |
| Fundraising - Gifts | 335,026 | 275,442 |
| In Kind Revenue | 134,063 | 129,744 |
| Other Income | 87,389 | 50,155 |
| Total Revenue | 9,402,131 | 9,910,638 |
| Less cost of Goods | | |
| Calculators | - | - |
| Clothing and Footwear | - | -6,331,893 |
| Embroidery | - | - |
| Freight | - | -235,312 |
| iPads | - | - |
| Sub contract expense | - | -17,442 |
| Orders | - | -350,420 |
| Total Cost of Goods | -5,945,222 | -6,935,067 |
| Gross Profit / (Loss) | 3,456,909 | 2,975,571 |
| Less Expenses | | |
| Administration | - | -584,801 |
| Consultancy Fees | - | -148,839 |
| Depreciation - Leasehold Improvements | - | -12,498 |
| Depreciation - Motor Vehicles | - | -22,277 |
| Depreciation - ROU | - | -41,843 |
| Employee Benefits | -2,275,749 | -1,921,160 |
| Fundraising | - | -37,128 |
| In Kind Employee and Rental Costs | - | -129,744 |
| Maintenance/Repairs | - | -17,496 |
| Other Expenses | -1,372,180 | -96,620 |
| Philanthropic Grants | - | - |
| Total Expenses | -3,647,929 | -3,012,406 |
| Surplus/(deficit) before tax | -191,020 | -36,835 |
| Income tax Expense | - | - |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | -191,020 | -36,835 |

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



Major Supporters



Philanthropic Supporters

Frank Montagnese Foundation
 The Women of The University Fund
 The William Angliss Charitable Fund
 Perpetual
 Australian Communities Foundation
 State Trustees Australia Foundation
 Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust

In Kind Supporters

Holding Redlich
 OneSight
 Department of Transport and Planning Victoria

Thank You

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



How you can help

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



Follow us online



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