10/5/24

**School Saving Bonus - Vic State Budget 2024-25**

**Background:**

The $400 Bonus will be provided during Term 4 of this year to all State school families and Health Care Card holders in Non-gov’t schools, making sure families have time to plan and budget for the 2025 school year ahead.

Families will receive a credit on their school family account to help meet the cost of activities and uniforms. Cash will not be paid directly to individuals or families.

**Key messages/talking points:**

* The Allan Labor Government has excluded the vast majority of Catholic school families from the $400 School Savings Bonus announced in the State Budget in a move that is blatantly unfair.
* 100% of government school families will receive the benefit because it is not means-tested.
* It is deeply disappointing that only Catholic school families who hold a Health Care card will be eligible (13% is the diocesan figure).
* Like government schools, the vast majority of our families are in the low and middle-income brackets.
* **We believe the payment should apply to all students/families or should be means-tested for all students.**
* **This support payment should not be based on which school you attend.**
* Our families are feeling cost-of-living pressures too, yet only those who are healthcare card holders are eligible for the program.
* We want to work with government to ensure students across all sectors receive the support they need to get the best education possible, but this policy is blatantly unfair.
* There are thousands of parents across regional Victoria, including parents at my school, wondering why the State Government is refusing to help them with their cost-of-living pressures, while handing out money to families in Melbourne’s wealthiest suburbs.
* We are contacting our State Government representatives as a matter of urgency to better understand why our families have been excluded from this program.