



# Chelsea Heights Primary School *Together we learn*

## The Truth about E.M.A.

Dear Parents,

As reported in the newsletter the Education Maintenance Allowance that you have received previously to support your child's education will **not** continue in 2015. This is due to the Victorian Government changing the way that it will support low income families with education expenses.

The government is telling you that from 2015, it will distribute the funds previously used for EMA directly to schools. HOWEVER, what you are **not** being told is that funds will **only** be distributed to schools that have a Student Family Occupation index above 0.51. Chelsea Heights Primary School's Student Family Occupation is **0.55**. This translates to minimum funding which is already committed to support the shortfall in fees paid.

I, on your behalf, have expressed my grave concerns about this lack of equality for our low income parents. If you are as concerned as me please contact your state government representative.

However, in 2015 the School Kids Start Bonus is still available from the Federal Government. Eligible families and students can receive up to:

- \$422 for each child in primary school (two instalments of \$211)
- \$842 for each child in secondary school (two instalments of \$421)

Half is paid in January and half in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus is available to families and carers who have a child in primary or secondary study and receive one of the following payments in respect of that child:

- [Family Tax Benefit Part A](#)
- [Youth Allowance](#)
- [Disability Support Pension](#)
- [ABSTUDY Living Allowance](#)
- [Carer Payment](#)
- [Parenting Payment](#)
- [Special Benefit](#)
- [Veterans' Children Education Scheme](#)
- [Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme](#)

Please go to <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus> to find out more.

Regards,

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PRINCIPAL

*Your family centred school*

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