

2011 Back to School Information Guide



Andrew Waddell MLA, Member for Forrestfield

Shop 7 & 8 High Wycombe Village Shopping Centre
530 Kalamunda Road, High Wycombe WA 6057
PO Box 2269, High Wycombe WA 6057

Phone: 9454 6415 ♦ andrew.waddell@mp.wa.gov.au
www.andrewwaddell.com.au ♦ www.twitter.com/waddell

Message from Andrew Waddell

Dear Parents and Guardians

I know that putting children through school can place a financial burden on families.

This booklet provides information on allowances and concessions which may help ease the financial stress.

Inside you will find details on allowances, discounts and concessions as well as information on text books, computers and term dates.

There are book and computer resources which, as well as saving money, are more environmentally friendly as they reuse existing items.

Please contact my office on 9454 6415 for any further information.

I wish parents, guardians and students all the best for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Waddell MLA
MEMBER FOR FORRESTFIELD

January 2011

Disclaimer:

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Parent Voluntary Contributions and Charges in Public Schools

Contributions

Parent contributions go towards the cost of certain materials, services and facilities directly used or consumed by the students.

Schools can request a contribution of up to \$60 per student per year, in Years K to 7 and up to \$235 per student per year, in Years 8 to 10.

The contributions collected from parents assist with the cost of materials, services and facilities directly used by students, including the hire of textbooks.

The School Council approves the level of contributions and they are detailed on the school contributions and charges list.

This contribution is a voluntary payment. It is expected that those who can afford to, will make the contribution.

Schools offer a range of payment options to assist any parents who may find it difficult to pay up-front. Please discuss these options with the principal.



Charges

Where students elect to participate in extra cost optional components, compulsory charges will apply.

Charges apply to all courses in Years 11 and 12.

Charges apply to extra cost options in Years K to 10 and all courses in Years 11 and 12.

Extra cost options are optional extras that students can select. For example non-compulsory units such as Outdoor Education.

They also represent specific activities, services or facilities that schools offer for students to use or take part in eg camp, the school yearbook and school social activities. Students can opt to take part in these activities or use the services or facilities.

The School Council approves the level of charges and payment is compulsory. Schools offer a range of payment options which you can discuss with the principal.

Other Costs

Personal Items

These are personal items that students need to own such as pens, files, notebooks and a calculator. The list is detailed and provided to parents with the school contributions and charges list. These items can be purchased from any retail supplier. The School Council approves this list.

Other Services

These are services or facilities which students can choose to use. Schools make provision for these on a cost recovery basis. Examples include the provision of photocopying and printing for computer-generated assignments and internet downloads over and above that provided as part of course allocations.

Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

Secondary Assistance Scheme

This scheme is available for high school students, including Year 11 and 12's, whose parents hold a Centrelink Family Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

The allowance includes:

- \$115 Clothing Allowance paid directly to the parent/guardian.
- \$235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school.

Application forms can be completed at the school and close on Tuesday 19 April 2011.

Tax Deductions for Education Expenses

Claim your back to school expenses on your next tax return.

If you are eligible, you can claim a refund in your 2011 individual tax return, or for those not required to lodge an income tax return, through a stand alone claim form.

Examples of eligible items include stationery, computer equipment and software, home internet connections, textbooks and trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

For the period of 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 the maximum you can claim is 50 per cent of eligible expenses up to:

- \$794 for each eligible child in primary school (a refund of up to \$397); and
- \$1,588 for each eligible child in secondary school (a refund of up to \$794)

You should keep your receipts to help with your claim. From July 2011 school uniforms will be included.

Assistance for Isolated Children

Primary or secondary students who cannot go to an appropriate state school because of geographical isolation, disability or special health need, may be eligible to receive Assistance for Isolated Children.

To find out the criteria for this allowance please contact Centrelink on 13 23 18.

Boarding Away From Home Allowance

Parents and guardians who receive the Assistance for Isolated Children allowance or the Second Home allowance are eligible for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance.

The allowance is for \$2,050 per annum and payment is pro-rata if the student boards less than a full year. Students must board for a minimum of one month a year. Payments will be made in Term 4.

Application forms are automatically sent from Centrelink to eligible parents and guardians.

Agricultural Colleges Boarding Away From Home Allowance

This allowance is available for students who are boarding at an agricultural college and do not receive Assistance for Isolated Children's Allowance or Youth Allowance at the 'Away from Home' rate.

The special subsidy is paid direct to the agricultural college towards students' boarding costs.

Applications for the subsidy need to be made through the agricultural college where the student is boarding.

Allowances, Discounts and Concessions

50 cent Public Transport Fares



Primary and high school students receive the 50 cent fare by using their Student SmartRider, which must be presented as proof of concession entitlement on all Transperth, Transwa and regional town bus services.



You may have already received a free SmartRider from your school. If you are at a non-participating school you may need to apply for the SmartRider card. Some schools may charge a small fee for the card if it has been personalised for school use.



Primary school students need to have their application authorised by their school administration and the form signed by the student's parent or guardian. Initial SmartRider cards are issued to primary school students free of charge, but a fee of \$5 will apply for replacement cards.



High school students at participating schools are automatically issued with SmartRiders from the school. If you haven't received one, you should contact your school administration.

High school students at a non-participating school need to complete an Application for Student SmartRider and have it authorised by your school or college. These cards will incur a fee of \$5.



For further information on Student SmartRider cards, please contact Transperth on 13 62 13 or visit <http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au>

Mobility Allowance

A mobility allowance is available through Centrelink for students with disabilities aged 16 years and over who cannot use public transport without substantial assistance, and need to travel to and from their home looking for work, doing work or training. For further information, please contact Centrelink on 13 24 90.

Youth Allowance

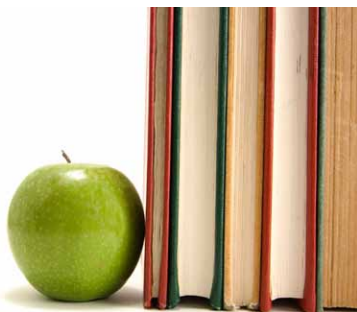
This is available to eligible students aged over 16. Parents or guardians must complete the application form unless the student is classed by Centrelink as a homeless or independent youth.

For further information please contact Centrelink on 13 24 90.

Abstudy

This is a fortnightly living allowance to help with the costs associated with studying or training. The allowance is available to Indigenous students aged over 14 years enrolled at and attending primary school, secondary school, TAFE, university or undertaking a full-time Australian apprenticeship.

For further information please contact Centrelink on 13 23 17.



Text Books

The best way to save money on text books is to buy second hand books.

School notice-boards and newsletters are good sources to find second hand text books. Some schools have their own second hand book shops.

Online Text Book Exchange:

<http://www.textbookexchange.com.au>

Australia's largest web site for second hand text books. It is free for students to join and there is no commission on any books bought or sold from this website.

Students can make money selling their old text books online and they can buy current textbooks from this web site at discounted prices.

Local Secondhand Bookshops

Belmont Belmont Forum Book Exchange, Belmont Forum S/C, Ph: 9478 1345

Bentley Curtin Student Guild Secondhand Bookshop, Curtin Uni, Ph: 9266 2909

Carlisle Booksabilia, 67 Oats St, Ph: 9362 3662

Kalamunda Lotsa Books Book Exchange, Shop 34 Centro Kalamunda, 39 Railway Rd, Ph: 9293 2926

Kalamunda Pickwick's Secondhand Bookshop, 17-22 Haynes St, Ph: 9257 2787

Perth Elizabeth's Secondhand Bookshop, 820 Hay St, Ph: 9481 8848

Perth Mainly Books, 209A Bulwer St, Ph: 9328 6410

Perth Trinity Arcade Bookshop, Shop 1 Trinity Arcade, Ph: 9322 4054

Keeping Your School Informed

Emergency Contact Numbers

Ensure you update your children's school with your current work and home phone numbers and let them know of any changes to your emergency contact numbers.

Medical Information

It is important to let your children's school know of any relevant medical information such as allergies, diabetes, asthma etc.

Custody and Access

Custodial parents are expected to provide the principal with information about custody and access. It is important to keep the school up-to-date with this information.



Computers and Internet Access

Libraries



Public libraries have free access to online encyclopedia resources, which anyone can access provided they are a member of their local library. Printing material from the internet may incur a small fee to cover the paper and printing costs. Most public libraries provide free access to the internet and use of their computers.

You can join your local public library for free in the area in which you live, work or go to school. All you will be required to do is show identification and proof of your current address. If you are under 18 years of age your parent or legal guardian may need to be present when you join.

For your nearest public library, please contact your local government.

Local libraries include:

Kenwick Library:

80 Kenwick Road, Kenwick

Phone: 9493 4536

Opening times:

Mon & Wed - 9am - 8pm

Tuesday & Thurs - 9am - 5:30pm

Sat - 9am - noon

Fri & Sun - Closed

Forrestfield Public Library

Strelitzia Avenue (cnr Salix Way)

Forrestfield

Phone: 9257 9975

Opening times:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9.00am -5.00pm

Tues & Thurs 9.00am-8.00pm

Sat: 9.00am -12 noon

High Wycombe Public Library

Markham Road

High Wycombe

Phone: 9257 9974

Opening times:

Mon & Wed 9.00am - 8.00pm

Tue, Thur & Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 9.00am - 12 noon

Green PCs

If you are buying a new computer, consider donating your old computer to Green PC. They will ensure that your old computer is given to a family who might not otherwise be able to afford one.

Home computers can help students by providing access to internet research and improving the presentation of school assignments - but they can be expensive.

Green PCs are recycled personal computers, which have been upgraded into usable internet ready computers. To qualify for a Green PC computer you must hold a current Centrelink Health Care Card or be able to verify low income status in some other way.

You can find out more about Green PCs at **www.greenpc.com.au** or by calling **1300 306 645**.



Term Dates 2011

- Term 1** Wednesday 2 February - Tuesday 19 April
- Term 2** Thursday 5 May - Friday 8 July
- Term 3** Tuesday 26 July - Friday 30 September
- Term 4** Tuesday 18 October - Wednesday 14 December



Local Schools

Darling Range Sports College

117 Berkshire Road
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9453 0100

Dawson Park Primary School

120 Bougainvillea Avenue
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9453 2499

East Kenwick Primary School

96 Kenwick Road
KENWICK WA 6107
Ph: 9459 1251

Edney Primary School

204 Newburn Road
HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057
Ph: 9454 8377

Forrestfield Primary School

45 Sussex Road
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9453 6277

Heritage College

339 Hawtin Road
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9453 1833

High Wycombe Primary School

60 Newburn Road
HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057
Ph: 9454 5280

Hillside Christian School

336 Hawtin Road
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9359 5222

Kenwick Primary School

1 Moore Street
KENWICK WA 6107
Ph: 9459 1888

Maddington Ed Support Centre

1951 Albany Highway
MADDINGTON WA 6109
Ph: 9459 5910

Maddington Primary School

1951 Albany Highway
MADDINGTON WA 6109
Ph: 9459 1239

Maida Vale Primary School

310 Kalamunda Road
MAIDA VALE WA 6057
Ph: 9454 5260

Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

30 Munday Road
PO Box 2075
HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057
Ph: 9454 4549

Orange Grove Primary School

Boyle Lane
ORANGE GROVE WA 6109
Ph: 9459 3601

Rehoboth Christian School (Primary)

92 Kenwick Road
KENWICK WA 6107
Ph: 9452 1245

Rehoboth Christian School (Secondary)

94 Kenwick Road
KENWICK WA 6107
Ph: 9459 7700

Wattle Grove Primary School

St Johns Road
WATTLE GROVE WA 6107
Ph: 9453 6722

Woodlupine Primary School

29 Solandra Way
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058
Ph: 9453 6928