

## Refugee and Asylum Seeker Wellbeing Supplement

**Funding to schools to support the wellbeing needs of students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds for the 2017 to 2020 school years.**

The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Wellbeing Supplement recognises that the wellbeing needs of students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds are complex and varied, and that schools require additional support to cater for these needs. The funding is to support the improvement of wellbeing services to this high needs cohort of students so they remain engaged and supported during their school years.

This initiative will contribute to the Education State targets of breaking the link between disadvantage and outcomes, and support the development of happy, healthy and resilient kids.

The Victorian Government has committed \$17 million over four years for the initiative.

### FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Wellbeing Supplement will be allocated to government schools based on the number of asylum seeker and Likely Refugee Background students enrolled at the August School Census.

Schools do not have to apply for funding.

A per student amount is calculated based on the available funding and the total number of eligible students in all government schools as at the August School Census.

Therefore, the amount provided per student will vary year to year, as the total number of eligible students varies.

The amount provided to a school depends on the number of eligible students in the school and the annual per student amount.

From 2018, schools will be advised in the September Indicative SRP of the amount that will be included in their SRP for the following year.

Schools will account for expenditure of this funding within usual financial practices. DET may request information through the August School Census about how schools use the supplement.

This funding will be in addition to, and independent of, any other funding provided for student instruction, welfare or wellbeing purposes and will appear on the school's SRP budget report under 'Targeted initiatives'.

### GUIDELINES FOR USING THE FUNDING

Funding is to be used to support the wellbeing of students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.

Possible supports could include, but are not limited to:

- the development of out-of-school-hours learning support programs, including homework clubs
- purchasing specialist services and support from appropriate external agencies and organisations, including professional learning for staff who support students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds
- provision of individual student counselling or other welfare support services
- subsidising or purchasing text books, resources, equipment, laptops or tablets for individual student use
- supplementing Camps, Sports and Excursions Funding (CSEF) for extra-curricular activities and experiences.

Funding is not to be used to pay or subsidise the student's voluntary school fees, or for the purchase of school uniforms. Principals can contact State Schools' Relief to discuss their students' eligibility for assistance with school uniforms.

This funding remains with the school and will not be re-allocated if a student transfers in or out during the school year.