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Hi Kelly,

I am following up on the National Council of Single Mother and their Children's evidence to the public hearing last Friday.

The Committee was interested to have follow up information on the costs of public education. These costs vary per state. For example, AGS estimates that public primary school costs in Victoria in 2018 are \$3489, while secondary school costs are \$5170.

They provide these calculations for each state and each type of school. Please see below website:

<https://www.asg.com.au/about-asg/media/asg-planning-for-education-index-2018>

We also have the following recent statement on our Facebook page:

*"This year my daughter has had about 6 excursions (\$8, & \$20-\$30) plus camp (\$355). Fees & booklist \$250ish, including borrowing some books from the school. Ipad \$720. Uniform \$400. Shoes \$90 so far. Myki \$15 per week minimum when she walks home 2 time a week.*

*There's 6 weeks of school left, and I haven't seen next year's booklist yet. She needs 2 new pairs of school pants (@ \$60 each) and when she turns 14, I have to purchase a concession or pay full fair for transport. I can't afford to leave the house more than once a week now, I can't afford to her to travel to school safely. At least for year 7 she won a scholarship. But it still took 3 terms to pay out the balance."*

Our frontline worker also provides this insight into flaws with the supports available:

*"We are already receiving requests for financial help with school costs. One caller advised that the welfare officer at her child's school refused to refer her to State Schools' Relief (SSR) for her child starting prep next year as she had already made an application for her son this year.*

*Ironically, the school requires prep students to be in uniform for their orientation day in November. Her child's kinder is also having a 'uniform day' for those starting school in 2019 as part of a farewell celebration.*

*After following up with SSR regarding the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund uniform package, the Contact Worker was advised that Preps will not receive their uniform assistance until Term 2, leaving many low income families with children starting school with no uniform support.*

*Referrals for SSR's 'welfare assistance' (a separate program) for 2019 will not be accepted until the first day of school next year."*

I hope this that information is useful.

Regards

Jenny Davidson

Chief Executive Officer



council of  
single mothers  
and their  
children

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