



Allan Government out of step with discriminatory cost-of-living support payments

The Federal Government's \$300 energy rebate announced last night puts a spotlight on just how discriminatory the Allan Government's approach to cost-of-living support is for Victorian families and how out of step it is with the rest of the country.

"Victoria seems to be the only jurisdiction discriminating when it comes to cost-of-living support for families," said Bruce Phillips, Acting CEO of the Victorian Catholic Education Authority.

"The Allan Government is completely out of step with the approach taken in the Federal Budget where cost-of-living support measures are being provided to all Australians.

"The WA government has also just announced cost-of-living support for all families in both government and non-government schools through its Student Assistance Payment.

The Allan Government has chosen to provide \$400 cost-of-living support payments through the School Saving Bonus to all families in government schools regardless of income, but only families with a Health Care Card in non-government schools.

"There is no justification for the government to treat Victorian families differently based on which school their children attend.

"We are calling for the Allan Government to treat families equally: either by making the School Saving Bonus payment available to all families or means testing it for all families.

"We are hearing a lot of anger from families in Catholic schools and we will continue to put our position very strongly to the Government that all families should be treated equally," he said.

There are more than 158,000 families who choose to send 215,000 students to the 496 Catholic schools in Victoria. This represents 1 in 5 Victorian students.

The Victorian Catholic Education Authority is the peak body for Catholic school education in Victoria.

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