

# Cost of Living

## Local charities

### **Casey North Community Information & Support Service – Emergency Relief**

**Address:** 30-32 Verdun Drive, Narre Warren

**Number:** 03 9705 6699

**Email:** [cnciss@caseynorthciss.com.au](mailto:cnciss@caseynorthciss.com.au)

**Website:** <https://www.caseynorthciss.com.au/>

Available for individuals and families experiencing disadvantage. Aid includes food vouchers, food parcels, household goods and financial assistance.

### **Endeavour Ministries – Emergency Relief**

**Address:** 2-6 Hanna Drive, Endeavour Hills

**Number:** 03 9700 4944

**Email:** [admin@andrewscentre.org](mailto:admin@andrewscentre.org)

**Website:** <https://andrewscentre.org.au/>

Emergency relief is available for individuals and families experiencing disadvantage. Aid includes food parcels, food vouchers, frozen food, clothing, blankets, furniture and financial assistance for paying household bills.

### **Shepherds Table**

**Address:** Our Lady of Help Christian Paris, 496 Princes Highway, Narre Warren

**Number:** 0488 227 535

**Email:** [shepherdstable@olhc.org.au](mailto:shepherdstable@olhc.org.au)

**Website:** <https://olhc.org.au/shepherds-table/>

Provides hot meal on the first and third Saturday of each month. Provides parcels of food and other essential grocery items to people who cannot afford to buy basic foods and groceries for themselves and their families.

### **Transit Soup Kitchen & Food Support – Material Aid (Food Pantry) & Community Meals**

**Address:** 3 Webb Street, Narre Warren

**Number:** 0484 986 466

**Email:** [Malcolm.transit@gmail.com](mailto:Malcolm.transit@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.transitoutreach.org.au/>

Material aid is available for individuals and families experiencing disadvantage or social isolation.

### **BK 2 Basics – Community Food Pantry**

**Address:** 54-60 Vesper Drive, Narre Warren

**Number:**

**Email:** [bk2basicsmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:bk2basicsmelbourne@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.bk2basicsmelbourne.org/>

A community food pantry provides material aid in the form of bread & bakery products, fresh fruit, vegetables, non-perishable food parcels and frozen food, for individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or otherwise experiencing disadvantage.

### **Salvation Army**

**Address:** 3 Webb Street, Narre Warren

**Number:** 13 72 58

**Website:** [The Salvation Army Australia - Believe in good](#)

Range of social services to help individuals and families in need. These services may include food assistance, shelter for the homeless, employment assistance.

### **St Vinnies Endeavour Hills**

**Address:** St Paul Apostle, 5 William Hovell Dr, Endeavour Hills

**Number:** 03 9700 3781

**Email:** [info@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:info@svdp-vic.org.au)

**Website:** [Vinnies VIC: Find help services](#)

Offers food hampers and emergency assistance.

### **Sikh Volunteers**

**Address:** Food van in various locations

**Number:** 0423 359 279

**Email:** [info@sikhvolunteersaustralia.org](mailto:info@sikhvolunteersaustralia.org)

**Website:** [Free Food Van | Sikh Volunteers Australia Inc.](#)

Provides free food and drinking water to those suffering from homelessness and financial stress.

### **WAYSS Dandenong**

**Address:** 20 Princes Hwy, Dandenong VIC 3175

**Number:** (03) 9791 6111

**Email:** [contact@wayss.org.au](mailto:contact@wayss.org.au)

**Website:** [WAYSS | Homelessness & Domestic Violence Support in South-East Melbourne](#)

A point of contact for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness in Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia.

### **Andrews Centre**

**Address:** 2-6 Hannah Drive, Endeavour Hills VIC 3802

**Number:** (03) 9700 4944

**Email:** [admin@andrewscentre.org](mailto:admin@andrewscentre.org)

**Website:** [Home - The Andrews Centre - The Andrews Centre](#)

A voluntary non-profit organisation that seeks to provide for those who are in need for whatever reason.

## **Assistance with Energy Bills**

### **Solar rebates**

The State Government is helping Victorians make the transition to renewable and cleaner energy by offering four solar rebate programs:

- Solar panel rebate
- Hot water rebate
- Solar rebates for rental properties and community housing
- Solar battery loans

To find out more visit <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-homes-program>

### **Assistance with water bills**

The State Government is offering up to 50% off annual water and sewerage bills for eligible pensioners and health care card holders.

To find out more visit <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/for-households/help-paying-your-bills>

### **Annual electricity concession**

The State Government is offering discounted gas and electricity bills for concession card holders.

To find out more visit <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/annual-electricity-concession>

### **Utility Relief Grant**

The grant provides help to pay a mains electricity, gas or water bill that is overdue due to a temporary financial crisis.

To find out more visit <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/utility-relief-grant-scheme>

## **Healthcare Support**

### **Priority Primary Care Centres**

PPCC's provide free care for people (with or without a Medicare card) with conditions that require urgent attention but not an emergency response. The centres are open after hours and have diagnostics on site or nearby.

To find out more visit <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/priority-primary-care-centres>

#### Narre Warren Priority Primary Care Centre & Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

60 Victor Cres, Narre Warren, VIC 3805  
0397712020

#### Dandenong Priority Primary Care Centre

134 Logis Boulevard, Dandenong South, VIC 3175  
0395797933

### **Bulk Billing**

Since November 2023 the Federal Government has tripled the bulk billing incentive, making it easier for more than 11 million Australians to see a doctor.

To find out more visit <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/increases-to-bulk-billing-incentive-payments>

### **Smile Squad**

Free oral health promotion, dental check-ups and treatment to Victorian government school students at school.

To find out more visit <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/smile-squad>

### **Glasses for Kids**

Provides free vision screening and, if needed, further testing and free glasses to participating Prep to Year 3 students.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/glasses-for-kids>

### **Free sanitary pads and tampons in all government schools**

Available in every government school in Victoria.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-sanitary-pads-and-tampons-all-government-schools>

## **Jobs, Education & Training**

### **Free TAFE**

In December 2023 the Victorian government expanded the free TAFE program, making more than 80 TAFE courses free for Victorians, even if you already hold a VET qualification or degree.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

### **Free secondary teaching degrees and scholarships**

If you enrol in a Victorian secondary school teaching degree, you could be eligible for a scholarship that pays you while you learn and can cover the cost of your studies.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/scholarships-secondary-teaching-degrees>

### **Free nursing degrees and scholarships**

To help us build a stronger workforce we're offering scholarships and support to train and upskill the next generation of nurses and midwives.

To find out more visit <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing-and-midwifery/free-nursing-and-midwifery-study>

## Transport

### Three- and six-month rego payments

Pay your registration for 3,6 or 12 months and pay less up front when you choose a 3- or 6-month registration renewal.

To find out more visit <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/registration-fees/short-term-rego>

### Capped regional travel on V/Line and regional travel

It is now easier to travel around and explore our state, with a fare cap of \$10.60 on a full fare or \$5.30 for a concession fare on regional travel.

To find out more visit <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/introducing-fairer-fares-for-regional-victorians/>

### Free rego for tradie apprentices

If you're a trade apprentice using your car for work, you may be eligible to get 100% of your registration renewal.

To find out more visit <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/registration-fees/concessions-and-discounts/trade-apprentice-registration-discount>

### Free learner and probationary licenses

Learner and probationary licenses and online testing are now free, while drivers who have not incurred demerit points or committed road safety offences in the three years prior to their licence expiring benefit from the reintroduction of a 25 per cent discount on their license renewal.

To find out more visit <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/free-ls-and-free-ps-deliver-big-savings-new-drivers>

## Housing

### Victorian home buyers' scheme

If you have a 5% deposit, we'll chip in up to 25% of the purchase price for a share in the property – which you buy back over time, interest-free.

To find out more visit <https://www.sro.vic.gov.au/homebuyer>

### Rent assistance

Available through Services Australia. Services Australia will check if you can get rent assistance when you make a new claim form for certain payments.

To find out more visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/rent-assistance>

### Capped Council Rates

Council Rates have been capped at 2.75 per cent for 2024-25.

To find out more visit <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-rates-and-charges>

## **Families & Education**

### **Free breakfasts and lunches at school**

Offering free, nutritious and healthy food for students in all participating Victorian government schools.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-breakfast-clubs-program>

### **Free kinder**

All children in Victoria who are 3 and 4 years old can access Free Kinder. This means families will save up to \$2,500 per child each year.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder>

### **Affordable school uniform programs**

Families can receive support for individual school uniform items, school shoes, swimwear, stationary items, STEM calculators, textbooks, work boots for vocational students and school bags.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/help-school-costs-and-fees>

### **Childcare subsidy**

Families must meet eligibility criteria to get CCS. The amount of CCS a family can get depends on their circumstances. Service Australia will pay the subsidy directly to your child care provider to reduce the fees you pay.

To find out more visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy>

### **School Saving Bonus**

Aims to assist students with uniforms, camps, excursions and sporting events at school – ensuring no child misses out on school activities due to financial stress.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus>

### **Help with cost of school camps and excursions**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides payments for eligible students to attend school camps, excursions, and sports and outdoor education programs.

To find out more visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

### **Kids Sports Voucher**

Helping eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation. Receive up to \$200 to cover the costs for membership and registration fees.

To find out more visit <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>