

Dear Parents and Carers

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO JOIN A SAVINGS PROGRAM THAT MATCHES EVERY DOLLAR YOU SAVE, UP TO \$500.

As you may be aware, the Department of Education supports parents to provide financially for their children and refers families to community and government organisations that can offer additional support to families. Saver Plus, Australia's largest matched savings program, is one such program and assists people to save for education expenses by matching their savings dollar for dollar up to \$500.

Saver Plus was developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the ANZ Bank in 2002 and is delivered by The Smith Family and the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Western Australia. More than 32 000 people across Australia have participated in the program, saving over \$17.3 million.

The Department wishes to offer eligible parents the opportunity to participate in Saver Plus.

What this means for you

Saver Plus is a free ten month program that provides financial education, budgeting and savings tips, and matches your savings up to \$500 for education costs. Saver Plus can help you:

- build your skills around managing money;
- become a regular saver; and
- reach a savings goal.

Once you finish the program, ANZ will match your savings dollar for dollar, up to \$500. You can use your matched savings for education-related costs, such as, computers, laptops, and tablets, school uniforms, text books, sports fees and equipment, school excursions and more.

Can I join?

You may be eligible to join if you meet all of the below criteria:

- have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card;
- are at least 18 years old;
- have some regular income from work (yourself or your partner) including casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work; and
- have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

Please note: a family may receive matched funds only once.

Hear what past Saver Plus participants had to say

"With one child at high school and four children in primary school I found it extremely difficult to find the money for school costs. Participating in Saver Plus has really taken away the stress of these costs."

“Now I’m much more relaxed and confident that I will always have money behind me to not only support my family, but also give them the extras in life.”

Your privacy

The Department, through local schools, will communicate directly with families where the Saver Plus program is available. The Department respects your privacy, and your personal information has not and will not be provided to any of the organisations associated with this program.

The Department will not know if you decide to participate and your decision to participate in this program is entirely voluntary.

How do I find out more?

Saver Plus is delivered by The Smith Family in the City of Stirling, Swan and Wanneroo in the north and the City of Kwinana, Cockburn and Rockingham in the south, and by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in the Mandurah, Peel and Albany areas.

The Smith Family and the Brotherhood of St Laurence invite you to join Saver Plus today. To contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator enquire online at www.saverplus.org.au, call or SMS your name and postcode to **1300 610 355**, or email saverplus@bsl.org.au.

Kind regards,



SHARYN O'NEILL
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



PETER COLLIS
NATIONAL MANAGER, SAVER PLUS
BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The Program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.