



Ararat Primary School

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT the EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) IN 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many families at Ararat Primary and surrounding schools have received the EMA since their child/children first commenced school. Two years ago, changes were made so that schools no longer received their portion of the EMA and, therefore, parents were encouraged to use their parent payment to cover the cost of Student Materials and Essential Educational Items, which then left no EMA available to pay for extras such as camps, excursions and uniforms.

The State Government has announced that, from 1st January 2015, the EMA will no longer exist.

Please note that the end of the EMA direct payment to parents will not affect any other payments you may be receiving, such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible families to assist with education costs.

Schools have been informed by the DEECD that additional funding will be provided to schools identified as being in greatest need, rather than directly to parents through the EMA.

Unfortunately, not all schools will receive this additional funding in 2015.

We are currently waiting on further advice and recommendations from the DEECD regarding support for our families, to ensure that we act fairly, and support the educational opportunities of all of our students.

In the interim, if you are one of our many families who have relied on the EMA payment to help with school expenses, please begin to plan accordingly to ensure that school expenses are budgeted for in 2015.

Please be assured that the Principals and School Councils of Ararat will continue to act in the best interest of our students and their families, ensuring that all of our students are offered the very best of learning opportunities.

If you have any further questions regarding the discontinuation of the EMA, and its impact on your family, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Molan
Principal