

25 May, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have settled into Term 2. I want to start by expressing my deep gratitude and admiration for the strength and resilience you have shown during this challenging time. Our school remains committed to providing continuity of learning for all our students.

Many of you may have heard the Minister's announcement earlier today regarding a funding package to support public schools (and other education and care service providers) in 7 identified Local Government Areas (LGAs) affected by the floods in the Northern Rivers, including Lismore.

This funding package comprises two initiatives which are designed to help our school community recover. The first is an emergency grant payment for our staff. The second is an education hardship fund for students to support their education recovery.

The Education Hardship Fund will provide \$500 for each of our students. The funds will be transferred to each student's school account. The funds will be available for use until the end of the 2023 school year. If you have more than 1 child at the school, the Education Hardship Fund will appear on our records as a combined amount (e.g. \$1,000 for 2 children).

What can the funds be used for?

Parents and carers can request to use the funds for school-related activities and expenses including:

- excursions, camps and incursions
- school-organised formals
- competition fees
- subject fees
- canteen purchases
- uniforms
- school uniforms (from school-run or P&C uniform shops), end of year school jerseys and ancillary items
- subject uniforms such as hospitality uniform
- student fees associated with TAFE such as White Cards
- calculators
- in-school tutoring such as a music tutor
- sport participation including weekly sport or carnivals

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- school photos

- family costs incurred by involvement in school theatre or music performances

- ongoing weekly co-curricular programs such as dance or gymnastics programs.

Unused funds can be transferred for students moving to another NSW public school, including those transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7. The unused funds cannot be transferred for students moving to an Independent or Catholic school.

Please note that the funds cannot be used for voluntary school contributions, nor can they be 'cashed out' or withdrawn for personal use.

How can I access the funds?

The funds will be available in your child's student account over the coming weeks. You can contact us at 6688 8221or jiggi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au to let us know how you would like the funds to be used for your child. It may take us a little bit of time to organise and purchase some items so I ask for your patience and understanding.

I ask that you consider your child's educational and wellbeing needs based on the list above. If you have an alternative suggestion, please feel free to include this in your request.

There might be instances where the school may not be able to provide what you have requested. With your agreement, I may be able to source these items at local retailers or providers and use funds in the student account to purchase these items.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Thank you

Michelle Stroud-Watts **Principal** - 2 -