

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Tuesday, 17 March 2026

LABOR SAVES VICTORIAN FAMILIES MONEY

Labor has helped half a million families with the cost of living by making school uniforms cheaper.

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ben Carroll today announced 500,000 uniform or essential school items have been delivered to students who need them.

This means a total of \$19 million is back in the pockets of hardworking Victorian families.

The Affordable School Uniform program has received more than 200,000 applications since the start of 2024.

The program is delivered by State Schools' Relief - providing free uniforms and other essential school items to students in public schools who need them.

Labor has also changed the Student Dress Code Policy to ban school logos on shorts, pants, skirts and socks in Victorian public schools.

This change means a family with two children in public school could save up to \$167 on uniform costs compared to last year.

Arrangements are in place to make sure that uniforms already purchased can continue to be worn.

Our \$75 million investment in State Schools Relief is one of the many ways the Allan Labor Government is helping busy school families with the cost of living.

When Jess Wilson's Liberals were last in government, they cut Free Fruit Friday and the Young Readers Program.

Only Labor can be relied on by families to provide real cost of living support.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"No child should miss out on a great education because they can't afford a school uniform.

"Labor understands that school costs can add up for families - and we're on their side.

"That's why we're making uniforms cheaper, delivering free eye exams and glasses, free dental checkups, free school breakfasts, free swimming lessons, free pads and tampons in public schools, and more."