

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Thursday, 21 May, 2015

HELPING FAMILIES AFFORD SCHOOL CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

The Andrews Labor Government is helping struggling families meet the extra costs of a child's education, establishing a \$148.3 million fund for school camps, sports trips and excursions.

The *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* will make sure every student – regardless of their background – gets the chance to go on camps and excursions with their friends and learn more about the world.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined Minister for Education, James Merlino, Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green and Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes at the Kinglake Ranges Wilderness Camp to make the announcement.

Over 222,000 disadvantaged students at more than 1,500 government schools and 650 non-government schools will be eligible for assistance under the Fund.

Excursions are an essential part of a child's education, giving students a window into how the world works. School camps are an extension of the classroom, teaching students to be independent and prepared for life, while sport teaches discipline and teamwork, and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Applications to the *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* are now open and will be promoted via school newsletters and websites.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card, or those who are temporary foster carers, will be eligible to apply.

Primary school students will receive \$125 a year, with secondary school students receiving \$225 a year. Payments will go directly to the school and be allocated to the student.

For more information parents and teachers can go to www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Quotes attributable to Premier, Daniel Andrews

"Too many children learn about disadvantage the hard way, when they don't get to go on school camp with their mates or have to stay back at school during excursions."

"We're helping families meet the extra costs of school, because every child deserves every chance to fit in and thrive."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education, James Merlino

"When I look back on my time at school, some of my best memories are of camps, excursions and school sports."

"The biggest education budget in history means more students, more families, getting the support they need."