



8th April 2020

Dear Shine Bright Kindergarten Families,

Earlier this week the Victorian Government announced COVID-19 funding support for sessional kindergarten providers and families of kindergarten children. The Victorian Government announced that families will be able to send their children to sessional kindergarten for free during Term 2, by providing additional funding directly to kindergarten providers. This funding applies only to children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program.

As a result of this, fees for Term 2 will not be charged by Shine Bright and kindergarten will be free for Term 2. **It is important to note that this is subject to an assessment to be undertaken by the Department of Education and Training. There are a number of requirements and conditions Shine Bright must meet in order to receive the COVID-19 funding support.** We are progressing on the assumption that we will meet the Department's requirements and conditions.

What does this mean for me? Subject to Shine Bright receiving the COVID-19 funding support:

- Families who have paid their fees **in full** will receive a refund of \$390 (equivalent to one term's worth of fees). To receive this refund, please email your bank account details (BSB, account number and account name) as well as your child's code or child's name to arofficer@shinebright.org.au. Refunds will be processed once Shine Bright receives the additional funding from the Department of Education and Training.
- For families who are paying their fees via **fortnightly direct debit**, direct debits will continue up to and including the payment on 24 April 2020. We will then suspend all direct debits for Term 2, with payments recommencing on 17 July 2020.
- For families who are paying via **Centrepay deductions**, Shine Bright will alter the target amount to be paid to reflect the reduction in fees for 2020.
- For families with children in a **prekindergarten program**, the COVID-19 funding support is not applicable to prekindergarten fees, as the prekindergarten program is not funded by the Victorian Government. We have however been advised by the Department of Education and Training that "support will also be made available for unfunded three-year-old kindergarten programs, subject to a case by case assessment". We are seeking additional information on this, but for now, fees for prekindergarten for 2020 will continue as normal.

If you have any questions in relation to 2020 kindergarten fees, please contact me at chris.cope@shinebright.org.au You can also call the Department of Education's advice line on 1800 338 663.



We will continue to provide updates to families as information is received. Thank you again for your continued support in these difficult and uncertain times.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Cope".

Chris Cope
Finance & Business Operations Manager