



18th August 2020

Dear Shine Bright Kindergarten Families,

Last week the Victorian Government announced further COVID-19 funding support for sessional kindergarten providers and families of kindergarten children. This is on top of the funding announced in late June 2020, which was for \$230 per child for each fee-paying enrolment.

This additional funding, which applies only to children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program, now means that families will be able to send their children to sessional kindergarten for free during Term 3.

Funded Kindergarten program

- Families who have paid their fees **in full** will receive an additional refund of \$390. If you have a balance owing of less than \$390, we will refund you the difference between \$390 and your balance owing. For example, if your balance owing is \$250, we will provide you with a refund of \$140. Refunds will be processed once Shine Bright receives the additional funding from the Department of Education and Training. We have no control over the timing of this but as soon as we receive the funding, it will be passed on to families.
- For families who are paying their fees via **fortnightly direct debit**, direct debits will continue to be suspended, with payments now recommencing on 25 September 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.

Prekindergarten program

- The COVID-19 funding support provided by the Victorian Government is not applicable to the prekindergarten program. The prekindergarten program is not funded by the Department of Education and Training and is funded solely by family fees.
- However, as in Term 2, we recognise that many of our families may be struggling in these difficult times and many are choosing not to send their children to prekindergarten in Term 3. To support our families, we have decided to reduce prekindergarten fees by 50% for Term 3. For example, if fees for the term are normally \$250, we will only charge \$125.
- For those families who have paid their entire 2020 prekindergarten fees **in full**, we will provide a refund equivalent to 50% of Term 3 fees.



- For those families paying their prekindergarten fees by **fortnightly direct debit**, these direct debits have continued throughout Term 3. We will continue to process these direct debits, however we will adjust the total amount of fees owed so that these direct debits will be finished earlier in 2020 than planned.

If you have any questions in relation to 2020 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.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Cope
Finance & Business Operations Manager