



Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network Children's Resource Program School Support & DHHS Brokerage Guidelines

The RE Ross Trust provides funds to the Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network (LMHN) emergency relief program to support educational costs for children in families experiencing homelessness/family violence.

Funds are allocated to SHS programs in the Loddon Mallee Region at the start of the financial year and unspent funds leading into the new financial year are pooled to provide agencies with another allocation.

Objectives

- To reduce discrimination against children whose parents or carers are experiencing financial hardship
- To enable children to move from the crisis stage to recovery by having the opportunity to develop resilience, and aid in prevention of recurrent presentations to SHS programs.
- To develop social inclusion at school for children might have lost their extended family, school mates or friends through relocation.
- To provide accompanying children with literacy/numeracy support to promote confidence following disruption in education.

Outcomes

- Engagement in the normal school program
- Regular attendance at school
- Sustaining social engagement with family, school and community
- Addressing literacy or numeracy problems

Criteria

Children must be attending primary or secondary school.

Applications for current material needs only - unpaid/outstanding accounts cannot be funded.

Other relevant funding programs should be accessed prior to applying for LMHN brokerage.

Eg:

State School Relief

Traveller's Aid

Family Violence Flexible Support

Camps, Sports, Excursion Funds

See <http://loma.net.au/childrens-resources/funding/> for further funding options and information.



Guidelines:

Funding application forms are available on the LMH Network website at <http://loma.net.au/childrens-resources/funding/>

All questions on the brokerage application must be answered- incomplete forms will be returned.

Direct bank deposits are the preferred method of payment, so an appropriate reference is required to identify the student.

Quotes are usually valid for a limited time- submit your application quickly.

Late booklists or other school items are often no longer available from the store or school- check with the provider to find out if process for payment and collection have changed.
Eg: items no longer delivered to schools may incur a delivery fee to a home address.

Early booklists or other school items may not be available when schools are shut over holidays and orders will need to be submitted just prior to the beginning of the school semester.

Funding limits means that some items are not covered in full- consider the ability of the family to pay the outstanding amount and assist with developing a manageable payment plan.

Funding reimbursement must be approved by LMHN staff, prior to applying for funds.

Invoices that include the child's name on them must be supplied.

Application approvals are sent via email.

Follow up by checking with the institution/business receiving payment that the items are ready for collection or have been provided.