



Where does the money needed to run our school come from, and what do we spend it on?

Dear Parents and Carers,

1st February 2018

Westgarth Primary School is a well-resourced school with an excellent teaching program.

Many parents and carers are surprised to find out how much we rely on the generosity and creativity of our school families to maintain the programs and environment that we value.

The school funds come from four sources:

- Funding from the Department of Education and Training (DET). This cash component of our school funding is based on the number of students who attend the school and the socio-educational background of our parents and carers. Schools, such as ours, with a high Index for Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), gain very little in equity funding from the Department of Education, while schools with a lower ICSEA are given additional funding to compensate for their educational and economic disadvantage. DET contributed approximately 40% of our cash budget in 2017.
- Parent Payments: Essential Education Items and Excursions/In-house activities (inc. Student Wellbeing) and Swimming as set by School Council each year. These funds are spent on student consumables and curriculum based excursions/in-house activities.
- Voluntary Contributions and donations including First Aid Officer, Maintenance, Repairs & of Buildings and Grounds and the Kitchen Garden Program (in 2017 we collected \$62,060) and the Tax Deductible Building Fund (in 2017 we collected \$45,641).
- Locally Raised Funds: Fundraising – money raised the previous year and (we carried over \$123,082.67 in our budget, the amount raised in 2017 plus \$25,000 from Jellis Craig which was raised at our 2017 Fete and will receive in 2018)

At Westgarth we rely on our capacity to raise funds locally. This helps to make up for the large shortfall between what we receive from government funding and what we need to run the school and its quality programs.

In 2018 we continue to ask families to contribute to school funds by paying not only for basic costs of materials used by students in their class, but to support other aspects of our school – our programs, playground works, grounds and maintenance, first-aid officer and kitchen garden program.

At Westgarth we are fortunate to have a high level of parent participation. One of the great things about this is the energy we put into raising money for the school. We have fabulous parents who work extremely hard each year to raise the money that we need. Thanks to our creative and hard working community, every year we have wonderful new initiatives as well as annual events that students and families look forward to. The Whopping Great Fete and Westgarth Idol are outstanding examples of the way we all work together to build a strong community and to raise the money we need in our budget for next year's expenses.

The money we collect in parent payments, donations and through fund raising, allows us to deliver the quality education programs that your children enjoy. On the following page we have tried to show you where the money goes. The short answer is - to a huge range of programs and school expenses.

I hope that this helps you to understand why parent payments, donations and fundraising are so important and why we ask each family to contribute to our efforts to fund the school's programs.

I thank you for your support and generosity.

Jo Wheeler

Principal

Where does the money come from and where does it go?

<p>The Education Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic staff salaries (based on student numbers, not experience of staff – so there’s not always enough money to cover all salaries) • teacher aides for students who are funded under the programs for students with disabilities • a small amount for staff professional development • some (limited) funds to replace teachers who are absent due to illness (CRTs) • a portion of school cleaning • a portion of utilities costs - electricity, gas and water • a portion of administration costs • a modest amount towards the upkeep of the school building and grounds • annual safety inspections • a tiny amount of furniture • some building maintenance and urgent works
<p>Family Contributions</p>	<p>Essential Education items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all student consumable items: eg. paper, exercise books, pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, cardboard, craft materials, diaries • printing costs • all curriculum related excursions and in-house activities that children attend during the year* • Kitchen Garden food (Grades 3-6) <p>Voluntary Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partial funding of the salary of the Kitchen Garden staff • partial funding of the salary of the first aid officer • partial funding for maintenance of school buildings and grounds and urgent works and projects <p>*Parents are asked to pay extra for camps, year 6 graduation, inter school sport and extra curriculum programs</p>
<p>Donations from the Tax Deductible Building Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building works and improvements (Masterplan)
<p>Fundraising: e.g. The Fete, Westgarth Idol, Parent & Friends events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enables the school to run high quality programs • special projects – Stage one and two of Masterplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) facilities in shared STEM space (partially funded by OSHC) • New play equipment on Clarke St site • art equipment • audio visual equipment • science Equipment • security cameras • turf maintenance • arborist and tree management • classroom furniture • portion of ICT equipment • portion of maintenance and repairs to buildings and grounds

