

## Protecting against the sun

Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's Developing a Sun Safety Strategy policy.

This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum waterproof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.

Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.

The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at:

[http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce\\_risk/prevention/prevent\\_sunProtection.asp](http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp)

## Education Tax Refund Legislation

The Australian Government announced in the 2008-09 Budget, that families would be able to claim a 50% Education Tax Refund (ETR) from 1 July 2008. The Bill to enact this proposal received Royal Assent on 9 December 2008.

Eligible families are able to claim a 50% refund every year for eligible education expenses up to:

- \$750 for each child undertaking primary studies (maximum refundable tax offset of \$375 per child, per year); and
- \$1,500 for each child undertaking secondary studies (maximum refundable tax offset of \$750 per child, per year).

### Eligible Expenses for Education Expenses Tax Offset

Eligible expenses are items that support a child during school and improve the quality of education.

Eligible Expenses cover the purchase, lease, hire, hire-purchase of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs (e.g. this could include a number of computer components purchased to build a home computer, and include repair and running costs);
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives; and disability aids to assist the use of computer equipment for students with disabilities (including repair and running costs);
- home Internet connection (establishment and maintenance);
- Computer software (such as word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software)

and educational games; and Internet filters and antivirus software);

- School textbooks and other paper-based school learning material (including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery - for example pencils, pens, compasses and glue); and
- Tools of trade (as prescribed by the course).

Expenses that are not eligible for the purposes of the tax offset include:

- School fees;
- School uniform expenses;
- Student attendance at school-based extra-curricular activities, such as excursions;
- Tutoring costs;
- Computer games and consoles;
- Musical Instruments;
- Sporting Equipment; and
- School subject levies (e.g. payment for consumables for particular subjects such as woodwork, art or home science).

Parents can simply claim the refund against eligible education expenses incurred from 1 July 2008, when they complete their 2008-09 income tax return, and any refund will be paid as an electronic payment into your nominated bank account or as a cheque.

### SCIENCE NEWS: Mrs Gibson

## Newsflash from Science!

A huge thank you to the Stapleton and Scales families for caring for the school chooks over the Christmas break. Our "girls" are back at school now and will need to ease their way back into the limelight and constant attention they receive by students during the term. We appreciate the support of these two families in taking care of the tricky issue of school animals during the long holiday break.

### SCHOOL HATS

Unfortunately, hats won't be available until end of February. Please advise students to wear other suitable hats.

### Allan's Bus Service

Notice to Parents of all Children travelling on Allan's Bus Service School Route P1193. A General Meeting of parents of eligible students is to take place on Monday 16 February at 6.30 pm.

Any parents wishing to have a change to the Route of have a concern should send a written letter to Warren Allan at PO Box 108 Wondai, hand into the Driver or meeting that night.