

**Brokerage/ Funding Options – North and West Region**

**November 2012**

**Please note information is valid at the time of printing and all information has been taken from agency websites. Please contact the relevant organization for further information on each of the funds**

Funding Source	Use	Details
North West Regional Children’s Resource Program	childcare, recreation, education, specialist services	<p>The brokerage is for accompanying children of clients accessing Specialist Homelessness and Family Violence Services. The funds can be used to access education, improve life outcomes, community connectedness, building a positive self-esteem, and developing social skills</p> <p><a href="http://www.homelesskidscount.org/brokerage.shtml">http://www.homelesskidscount.org/brokerage.shtml</a></p>
Department of Human Services Early Start Kindergarten Grant	Kindergarten program	<p>The Early Start Kindergarten grant, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, provides eligible three year old children access to an additional early year of quality kindergarten program per week free of charge or at minimal cost. From 2013 the grant will be available for up to 15 hours per week.</p> <p>To be eligible children must be:</p> <p>aged three years by 30 April in the year that they attend kindergarten AND                      be an Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander OR be known to Child Protection (including children referred from Child Protection to Child FIRST).</p> <p>The Early Start Kindergarten grant is paid directly to the early childhood service.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/education/early-start-kindergarten">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/education/early-start-kindergarten</a></p>
Australian Government	Early intervention services and equipment for children with ASD	<p>The Australian Government has committed ongoing funding to address the need for services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families and carers. Following diagnosis, families contact an Autism Advisor in their state or territory who will provide information regarding eligibility, available funding and Early Intervention and other support services.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria for children to access the Early Intervention funding is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eligible children are those aged zero to six years who have been diagnosed in Australia with an ASD</li> <li>• a child must have been seen by an Autism Advisor and deemed eligible to access the service before their sixth birthday and</li> <li>• funding of up to \$12,000 (maximum of \$6,000 per financial year) can be accessed until the child’s seventh birthday.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/helping-children-with-autism">http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/helping-children-with-autism</a></p>

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Australian Government	Early intervention services for children with disabilities	<p>The Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start) initiative includes up to \$12,000 in funding for early intervention services and treatments for eligible children, additional assistance is available for eligible children who live in outer-regional, rural or remote locations to help with the costs of accessing services. To register a child for the Better Start early intervention funding parents and carers must call the Registration and Information Service (RIS) on 1800 242 636.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible children are aged under six years and have been diagnosed with:</li> <li>• Down syndrome</li> <li>• cerebral palsy</li> <li>• Fragile X syndrome, or</li> <li>• a moderate or greater vision or hearing impairment, including deaf/blindness.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/better-start-for-children-with-disability-initiative">http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/better-start-for-children-with-disability-initiative</a></p>
State School Relief Fund	Education	<p>Any Victorian government school. SSR only responds to requests from principals, assistant principals and welfare coordinators. Parents or carers who are struggling financially to provide for their child's government education should make an appointment with the school principal or assistant principal/welfare coordinator to discuss their issues.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ssr.net.au/about-us.aspx">http://www.ssr.net.au/about-us.aspx</a></p>
School Focused Youth Service (SFYS)	Education (10- 18 year olds)	<p>Regionally across the state – not all SFYS will have individual brokerage.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sfys.infoxchange.net.au">www.sfys.infoxchange.net.au</a></p>
Department of Human Services education conveyance allowance	Travel costs to school	<p>This allowance, provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, assists eligible students with the cost of travel to school. The allowance is available to eligible students attending government or non-government schools in rural and regional Victoria. It applies to travel by public transport, private bus and private car. The allowance is available to school aged students who live 4.8 km or more, by the shortest practicable route, from the nearest appropriate school and do not have access to the free school bus service. To apply contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on 1800 809 834</p> <p><a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/education/education-conveyance-allowance">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/education/education-conveyance-allowance</a></p>

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Family Mediation Reconciliation program	Family mediation/ reconciliation, counselling, psychology	FRMP has an allocation of funding that can be accessed by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), refuges, THM services and Creating Connections to support young people (newly or longer term homeless) aged 15–25yrs who have identified they are wanting to access family mediation/ reconciliation type services. <a href="http://www.frmp.org.au/brokerage/">http://www.frmp.org.au/brokerage/</a>
Creating Connections Educational and Employment Pathways (CEEP)	Education, employment, training	For young people aged 15-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are supported by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to access education and employment options. <a href="http://www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Education-Training-Programs/Education-Training-Community-Unit/Creating-Connections-Educational-and-Employment-Pathways">http://www.melbournecitymission.org.au/What-We-Do/Our-Programs-Services/Education-Training-Programs/Education-Training-Community-Unit/Creating-Connections-Educational-and-Employment-Pathways</a>
Job Network	Employment, education, training	If your client has been unemployed for over 3 months they are eligible to access some funding assistance from their Job Network (through the Job Seeker Account). The amount and type of funding will vary between Job Networks. Contact your clients' Job Network Provider
DHS Leaving Care Post Care Support Brokerage	Accommodation, education, training and employment , access to health and community services, life skills education and connection to community	Leaving care brokerage is restricted to any young person/young adult aged under 21 years who was subject to a Custody or Guardianship to Secretary order on or after their 16th birthday and who is leaving, or has left care to live independently. This includes those young people subject to Custody or Guardianship to Secretary orders who left care prior to commencement of the Children, Youth and Family Act (CY&FA) on 23 April 2007 and who are not yet 21 years of age. The community service organisation that provides post care support is responsible for the Leaving Care brokerage funds.  Berry Street - (03) 9450 4700
Transition to Independent Living (TILA)	Employment, education, training and other	For YP exiting state-based care and/or informal care such as: juvenile justice; out-of-home care; or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander kinship care arrangements. Available to purchase a range of goods, and other costs associated with transition to independent living. <a href="http://www.tila.org.au/">http://www.tila.org.au/</a>

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Special Child Care Benefit Australian Government	Child care fees	Special Child Care Benefit (SCCB) can be used to subsidise or cover the costs of approved child care for eligible children. Services can approve up to 13 weeks of SCCB rate in each financial year. There are two types of SCCB: SCCB rate and/or additional hours for children at risk of serious abuse or neglect SCCB rate for families experiencing hardship that substantially reduces their capacity to pay their usual child care fees. For families experiencing hardship the SCCB rate is designed to assist the family while they adapt to their changed circumstances, it is not intended to support families who have ongoing low incomes or issues relating to financial over commitment. <a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Resources/Handbook/Part2/Pages/14_6.aspx">http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Resources/Handbook/Part2/Pages/14_6.aspx</a>
Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care Fee Assistance Australian Government	Child care fees	Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care Fee Assistance provides extra help with the cost of approved child care for eligible parents undertaking activities such as job search, work, study, training, or undertaking rehabilitation to enter, or re-enter, the workforce as part of an Employment Pathway Plan or Participation Plan. JET Child Care Fee Assistance can help you meet the cost by paying most of the 'gap fee' not covered by Child Care Benefit for the hours of care you need for approved activities. You will still need to make a small contribution toward the cost of care. <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/jobs-education-and-training-child-care-fee-assistance">http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/jobs-education-and-training-child-care-fee-assistance</a>
St Kilda mums	Baby furniture and clothing	A not-for-profit organisation based in St Kilda, Melbourne. We collect donations of nursery equipment and recycle cots, prams, bassinets, clothes and other baby essentials, and make sure they meet safety requirements. Supports children and parents experiencing hardship in practical partnership with maternal & child health nurses and local social service agencies. <a href="http://www.stkildamums.org/home">http://www.stkildamums.org/home</a>
Caroline Chisholm	Baby furniture and clothing	Can assist families with essentials for babies <a href="http://www.carolinechisholmsociety.com.au/services.htm">http://www.carolinechisholmsociety.com.au/services.htm</a>

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Givit		<p>GIVIT is a unique web-based philanthropic community where people donate quality items to people in need. We are a 'targeted giving' service that ensures those who need assistance, get exactly what they need, when they need it most.</p> <p>We connect you to a network of Australia's most trusted charities who list their clients' greatest needs, &amp; make it easy for you to organise transport directly with the charity.</p> <p>We champion direct giving, &amp; strive to make large &amp; small acts of giving easy.</p>
StepUP Loans	Essential personal, household and domestic goods and services (eg. refrigerators, washing machines, medical expenses, cars and car repairs, computers).	<p>StepUP Loans are a not-for-profit loan developed by NAB and Good Shepherd Microfinance. These personal, unsecured loans are between \$800 and \$3000 for individuals and families living on a low income and are offered at a basic interest rate of 3.99%p.a.</p> <p>The loans provide affordable credit for the purchase of essential personal, household and domestic goods and services (eg. refrigerators, washing machines, medical expenses, cars and car repairs, computers).</p> <p>Recipients are 'mentored' by a microfinance worker throughout the loan process and repayment period.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nab.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/nab/nab/home/About_Us/7/4/3/4/#6">http://www.nab.com.au/wps/wcm/connect/nab/nab/home/About_Us/7/4/3/4/#6</a></p>
General NILS Scheme	Household items, medical procedures/health aids, one off education costs, vehicle expenses, moving costs	<p>NILS is a community-based program offering small loans free of interest and charges to individuals and families on low and limited incomes. Loans are generally for the purchase of essential household items and can be paid off in affordable amounts.</p> <p><b><u>Melbourne - North</u></b></p> <p><b>Broadmeadows</b> Broadmeadows Uniting Care NILS - 413-419 Camp Road Broadmeadows, VIC, 3047 Telephone: (03) 9351 3600</p> <p><b>Carlton</b> Carlton NILS -180 Palmerston Street Carlton, VIC, 3053 Telephone: (03) 9347 7077</p> <p><b>Coburg</b> Moreland NILS - Coburg Community Information Centre, 91 Bell Street Coburg, VIC, 3058 Telephone (03) 9350 6386</p>

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		<p><b>Collingwood</b> Good Shepherd Youth &amp; Family Service NILS - 117 Johnston Street Collingwood, VIC, 3066 Telephone: (03) 8412 7326</p> <p><b>Craigieburn</b> Brotherhood of St Laurence - 120 Hothlyn Drive Craigieburn, VIC, 3064 Ph: (03) 9305 5100</p> <p><b>Darebin</b> Darebin NILS - Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Centre 285 - 287 High Street Preston, VIC, 3083 Telephone: (03) 9480 8200</p> <p><b>Epping</b> Kildonan NILS - 188 McDonalds Road Epping, VIC, 3076 Ph: (03) 8401 0100</p> <p><b>Fitzroy</b> Brotherhood of St Laurence - 67 Brunswick Street Fitzroy, VIC, 3065 Ph: (03) 9483 1183</p> <p><b>Preston</b> Spectrum MRC NILS - 251 High Street Preston, VIC, 3083 Telephone: (03) 9496 0200 / (03) 9384 7400 Please note: This NILS provider is a migrant specific NILS provider.</p> <p><b>Sunbury</b> Sunbury NILS - Sunbury Community Health Centre 12-28 Macedon Street Sunbury, VIC, 3429 Telephone: (03) 9744 4455</p> <p><b>Thornbury</b> Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House NILS - 131 Shafestbury Parade Thornbury, VIC, 3071 Specifically for women with some association / connection with Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House Telephone: (03) 9480 0466</p> <p><b><u>Melbourne - West</u></b></p> <p><b>Altona</b> Hobsons Bay NIL - Louis Joel Centre 5 Sargood Street Altona, VIC, 3018 Telephone: (03) 9398 2548</p>
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		<p><b>Maribyrnong</b> Centacare Refugee and Settlement Program NILS - 3 Wingfield Street Footscray, VIC, 3011 Telephone: (03) 9689 3888 Please note: This NILS program is designated for refugee and humanitarian entrants.</p> <p><b>Maribyrnong NILS</b> Wesley City Mission - 310 Barkly Street Footscray, VIC, 3011 Telephone: (03) 9689 3515</p> <p><b>Melton</b> Melton NILS - 10 Smith Street Melton, VIC, 3337 Loans for Whitegoods ONLY Telephone (03) 9747 6811</p> <p><b>St Albans</b> Good Shepherd Youth &amp; Family Service NILS - 354 Main Road West St Albans, VIC, 3021 Telephone: (03) 8312 8800</p> <p><b>St Albans South</b> Holy Eucharist NILS - 1A Oleander Drive St Albans South, VIC, 3021 Telephone: (03) 9366 1310</p> <p><b>Werribee</b> The Smith Family 150 Rosella Avenue Werribee, VIC, 3030 Telephone: (03) 8742 3125</p>
Housing Establishment Fund (HEF)	Crisis, longer-term or alternative-housing options, or to assist in maintaining existing housing.	The Housing Establishment Fund (HEF) is a grant program provided by homelessness housing and support agencies to assist eligible clients to access and/or to maintain private rental housing, or to access emergency short term accommodation. The Housing Establishment Fund is also used for other assistance relating to relocation and establishing housing.
Department of Human Services Utility Relief Grant and non mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme	Household Utilities	The Utility Relief Grant Scheme and the Non-Mains Utility Relief Grant Scheme provide assistance for domestic customers who are unable to pay their utility bills due to a temporary financial crisis. Assistance may be provided to low income households suffering a short term (within last 12 months) financial crisis who are unable to pay for a current utility account or LP gas account and who are at risk of disconnection, restriction of supply or non-supply of gas bottles. The Utility Relief Grant Scheme is also available to eligible customers

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		<p>who experience difficulties paying for other non-mains sources such as carted water, firewood (for households with no other form of heating)</p> <p><a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/hardship/utility-relief-and-non-mains-utility-grant-scheme">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/hardship/utility-relief-and-non-mains-utility-grant-scheme</a></p>
Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative	Attendant care, hire of equipment, sign/Auslan interpreting or transport costs.	<p>The Disability and Family Violence Crisis Response Initiative is a 12 month state-wide pilot project that aims to assist women with a disability experiencing family violence. Women and their children may require immediate disability support to access a family violence crisis accommodation response while exploring longer term housing and support options or require immediate disability support to remain safe in their own home. Short-term funds can be provided for up to 12 weeks to a maximum of \$9,000 per person while the woman works with her Family Violence Worker to develop a longer term plan.</p> <p><b>North and West Metropolitan</b>          Tel: 03 9412 2741          Fax: 03 9412 5466          TTY: 03 9412 2647          Email: <a href="mailto:NorthandWest.Disability@dhs.vic.gov.au">NorthandWest.Disability@dhs.vic.gov.au</a></p>
Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT)	counselling, medical, safety-related and funeral expenses, lost earnings and other reasonable expenses to assist a victim of crime in their recovery	<p>The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT) is established by legislation to provide financial assistance to victims of violent crime committed in Victoria. VOCAT assists victims to recover from a crime by providing financial assistance for expenses incurred, or reasonably likely to be incurred, as a direct result of the crime.</p> <p><a href="http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au/how-apply/lodging-application">http://www.vocat.vic.gov.au/how-apply/lodging-application</a></p>
Multi-Purpose Taxi Program	Half price taxi fares	<p>The Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) makes transport more accessible for Victorians with a severe and permanent disability. MPTP gives members half price taxi fares, paying up to \$60 per trip. Some members have a yearly limit. The cards cost \$16.50 and are valid for six years.</p> <p><a href="http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/passengers/mptp">http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/passengers/mptp</a></p>



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Patient Transport Subsidy	Travel and accommodation costs to receive approved medical specialists services.	The Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) subsidises the travel and accommodation costs incurred by rural Victorians, and if appropriate their escorts, who have no option but to travel a long distance to receive approved medical specialists services. You must hold at least one of the following concession cards: Pensioner, Concession Card, Health Care Card, DVA Gold Card, DVA White Card, Victorian Seniors Card or Commonwealth Senior Health Card. Application forms can be obtained from local doctors, hospital social workers and Department of Health rural regional offices. <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/health/patient-transport-subsidy">http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/financial-support/concessions/health/patient-transport-subsidy</a>
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