

For immediate release

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## Money smart parents beat the cost of education blues

### Parents need to develop good financial habits to prepare for future rises in education costs

Good financial habits are essential if parents are to combat increasing schooling costs over the next five years, an Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) survey has revealed.

The research showed parents can expect to pay up to 25 per cent more for the education of a child born in 2012 compared to students entering the school system the same year.

ASG's General Manager, Development Frida Kordovoulos said families who delayed budgeting for their child's education in favour of more immediate goals such as a car or holiday made them more vulnerable to future price rises in the cost of schooling.

"Parents need to start thinking about their child's education expenses before they start school," said Ms Kordovoulos. "Families who were not prepared for the future could find the costs of education are a shock to the family budget.

"Your child's future is too important to leave to chance, so we encourage parents to start saving for education at an early age, and it doesn't need to be arduous. The Australian Scholarships Group recommend that for as little as \$11 a week – the cost of three coffees – that parents can benefit from a savings program that will ensure their child's future education, whether that be full time study at university or TAFE," said Ms Kordovoulos.

ASG Member Michelle Huppe of Mount Waverley, Victoria stated she and her husband had started an education fund with ASG to ensure they were well prepared for their children's future schooling costs.

"We wanted to give ourselves plenty of time to save the money needed to ensure we provide our children with the best possible options for gaining a suitable education," said Mrs Huppe. "Putting that extra bit aside for future schooling costs means there will be more money available when our children get to secondary school to help with payments, and it helps combat any unexpected future financial pressures."

It's also given Mrs Huppe peace-of-mind that she can choose the school system that will give her children a solid foundation for success in the future.

### Key figures:

#### Schooling costs for child born in 2012: Regional Australia (14 year education: includes pre-school and prep)

- Government – up to \$51,644
- Systemic (Catholic) – up to \$158,170
- Private – up to \$284,099

#### Schooling costs for child born in 2012: Metropolitan Australia (14 year education: includes pre-school and prep)

- Government – up to \$65,829
- Systemic (Catholic) – up to \$212,920
- Private – up to \$428,723

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Ms Kordovoulos said good financial health was the foundation for a secure future, and key in preparing for rises in living costs.

ASG's [top tips](#) to improving your financial health include:

1. Talk about money openly in your family – examine financial issues, opinions and beliefs so you can understand and respect all family members' viewpoints.
2. Get a budget – a budget is a powerful tool that will help to combat rises in the cost of living.
3. Analyse your spending – compare your spending, and ensure your income is higher than your expenses.
4. Plan ahead for your goals – work out how much you need to put aside for your future goals and how long it will take you.
5. Buy peace-of-mind – think about insurance. Conduct thorough research and ensure you have the right level of coverage.
6. Don't suffer in silence – asking for help doesn't have to be difficult or expensive; there are a number of financial counselling services that are available in Australia.

**For summary sheets of the cost of education in metropolitan and regional areas please visit:**

[www.asg.com.au/edcosts](http://www.asg.com.au/edcosts)

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**For more information, please contact:**

Camilla Fiorini, Communications Manager,  
Australian Scholarships Group  
Ph: 03 9276 7786  
Mobile: 0402 837 758

Scott McKenzie, Senior Account Manager  
Professional Public Relations  
Ph: 03 8643 1636  
Mobile: 0433 144 731

***About the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG)***

ASG is a not-for-profit specialist education benefits provider that offers parents a proven and proactive way to nurture and fund their children's education. ASG has supported parents to provide education opportunities for their children for nearly 40 years. Find out more about ASG's Education Program™ at [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au) or phone 1800 648 945.