

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is Australia's leading friendly society specialising in education benefits.

- With more than \$A1.5 billion in funds, ASG has helped over 370,000 Member parents plan for the costs of their children's education.
- As a not-for-profit organisation, ASG Members share the benefits generated by the endeavour.

ASG'S BEGINNINGS

In 1974 a small group of parents established ASG as an independent not-for-profit organisation enabling a co-operative of Member parents to work together with the aim of providing educational opportunities for their children. The friendly society movement was chosen as the vehicle best suited for this endeavour. The decision was made primarily on the basis of a shared commitment to the key principles of mutuality. ASG is a member of Friendly Societies of Australia, which is represented by the industry organisation Abacus Australian Mutuals.

PLANNING FOR EDUCATION

ASG's Education Program™ offers a unique, convenient and proven way for people to plan for their children or grandchildren's future education. The program can be tailored to suit the needs and budgets of most families.

At its foundation, ASG's Education Program™ provides for basic secondary and post-secondary costs, with contributions starting from around \$11 per week. Parents and grandparents can also choose to supplement their program by putting aside additional funds towards their children or grandchildren's primary, secondary and post-secondary education with contributions beginning from around \$15 per week.

ASG's Future Education Program offers people the ability to plan for the education costs of their future children. This is a unique concept and the first program of its type available in Australia. ASG's Future Education Program contributions start from \$15 per week.

ASG's Future Education Program and supplementary solutions provide flexibility, including an opportunity for them to be claimed as tax-paid friendly society bonds.

As the programs are designed specifically for education, they fulfil the requirements of a 'scholarship plan' under the Tax Act. This allows the programs to receive taxation advantages on the education benefits paid. For more information about ASG and its Education Programs, phone 1800 648 945 or visit www.asg.com.au

FUTURE EDUCATION COSTS

ASG encourages parents to plan for their children's education just as they would plan for other important events during their families' lives. Over the past 15 years, education costs have risen substantially. Information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the education fees component of the Consumer Price Index has been rising at almost double the rate of inflation.

During its 34 years of operation, ASG has collated and conducted a series of studies centered on future education costs as part of its mission to help parents provide educational opportunities for their children. Information about the costs associated with education, calculators, and education-related resources can be found at ASG's website: www.asg.com.au in the Resources section.

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

ASG Members value education and perceive it as a major foundation in life. Education provides a means for their children to pursue their dreams, fulfil their potential, and prepares them for future success. ASG Members place high importance on choosing schools that meet the needs of their children throughout all stages of education. They are aware of the benefits of saving and the importance of planning to meet the education goals they have set for their children. An ASG poll revealed the majority of survey respondents believe that the benefits of education outweigh the costs.

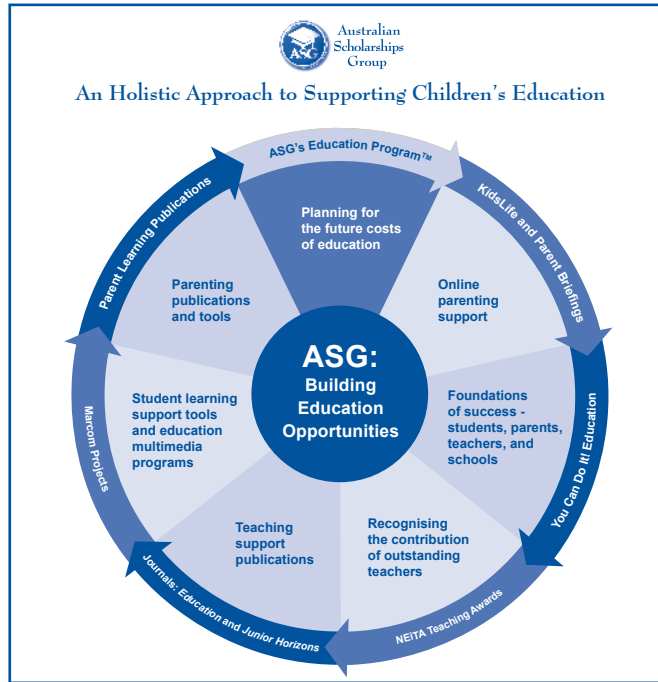
BUDGETING FOR EDUCATION FEES

One of the main problems that parents face today is having to juggle their household budget to pay the full term or semester school fees. Fees can often fall due at inappropriate times or be overlooked resulting in late payment. ASG's School Plan helps parents spread their school fee payments over the course of the year rather than having to find the money in a lump sum. For more information, phone 1800 337 419 or visit www.schoolplan.com.au



COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUPPORT INITIATIVES

ASG is committed to supporting children, parents, and teachers through a range of initiatives as summarised below.



SUPPORTING EDUCATION

ASG supports the teaching profession through the NEiTA Teaching Awards, which were established in 1994 and helped pioneer the recognition of the important contribution teachers make to our society. NEiTA is the only teaching awards program that calls on the real beneficiaries of great teaching – the stakeholders of education – to recognise and celebrate the contributions of teachers. While education issues and policies can divide public opinion, one matter that unites educationists, parents, and students in helping a child to learn is the importance of an inspirational teacher. When a teacher demonstrates passion, enthusiasm, and skill for the subject matter, magic can happen in the mind of a student. For more information, phone 1800 624 487 or visit: www.neita.com.au

Education Horizons is ASG's educational journal for the teaching profession. It focuses on professional self-development, new teaching techniques and practices, and presents groundbreaking articles by Australian and overseas educators.

Junior Horizons is designed to support and inspire those in early childhood education. It combines current theory and practical information to help educators nurture and guide children to reach their potential.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

ASG actively supports families in the community by building relationships with organisations such as Early Childhood Australia, The Smith Family, Melbourne Graduate School of Education – University of Melbourne, Kindergarten Parents Victoria, Grandparents Australia, May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, LifeLine's Kidsline (NZ), and Life Education Trust (NZ).

SUPPORTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN

ASG has published and distributed books for parents and children covering topical issues such as bullying, choosing careers, over-scheduling of children, study aids and motivation. ASG offers information, programs and services to assist Members and non-members.

KidsLife Foundation, through its websites www.kidslife.com.au and www.parentbriefings.com.au offers access to hundreds of articles to assist parents to understand and address their child's developmental needs. These free online resources provide helpful parenting support and information through monthly and quarterly email newsletters.

You Can Do It! Education aims to provide children with Dr Michael Bernard's foundations of achievement – confidence, persistence, organisation, getting along, and resilience, and the attributes to achieve social and emotional wellbeing in school, work, and the world of tomorrow. Many thousands of primary and secondary schools across Australia have You Can Do It! Education resources. You Can Do It! Education's *Early Childhood Program* is the leading social-emotional curriculum available for the early-childhood setting.

The *ASG Student Social and Emotional Health Report* unveiled groundbreaking findings into the social and emotional health of more than 10,000 Australian students from the early years of schooling to senior secondary school levels. For more information about You Can Do It! Education, phone 1800 803 135 or visit www.youcandoit.com.au or to view the report visit www.asg.com.au/social/emotional

Marcom Projects is ASG's multimedia educational products division. Marcom offers exclusive educational catalogues that include more than 4,000 DVD and CD-ROM programs to support the learning curriculum. Marcom Projects has exclusive distribution arrangements with a number of respected program producers around the world. For more information phone 07 3340 8900 or visit www.marcom.com.au

NATIONAL NETWORK

ASG's Head Office is situated in Melbourne, Australia with a further 15 offices located throughout Australia and New Zealand and more than 180 licensed Counsellors. ASG employs more than 100 staff.

All information based on ASG's current financial results (30/06/08)