



# MATTHEW GUY MP

Leader of the Opposition  
Leader of the Liberal Party

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## Media Release

[Matthew Guy](#)

# 14

October  
2018

## Guy: Free School Books for Students program

Sunday 14 October 2018

### Free School Books for Students program

A Liberal Nationals Government will help Victorian families get back in control of cost of living pressures by paying for school textbooks for secondary students at government schools.

This will save some families of two secondary students around \$1,000 a year.

Victorian families are doing it tough with cost of living pressures, especially families with school children.

Before the last election Daniel Andrews promised “no new taxes” but since then he has introduced or increased 12 taxes. Victorians’ taxes have gone up by 35% since he was elected.

On top of Labor’s new taxes, average household electricity bills are up by over \$300 a year because Daniel Andrews forced the closure of Hazelwood.

That's why an elected Liberal Nationals Government will help provide some support and relief for families with school children.

Most families do it a little tougher after Christmas and at the start of the school year with all the added expenses.

The Free School Books for Students program will ease the financial squeeze for parents of secondary students at government schools.

A good education is also the key to hope and opportunity for school children which is why making it easier for families to freely obtain the required text books is so important.

The Free School Books for Students program will provide funding to government schools to purchase school text books for students. The Department of Education will work with schools on implementation processes to ensure value for money and choice.

Students will be expected to maintain the books and return them in good condition at the end of the semester or year. While this policy principally applies to hard copy text books, the Department will also work with schools to improve the procurement of texts in digital format.

An elected Liberal Nationals Government will commence planning for the Free School Books for Students program in our first 100 days to commence at the start of the following academic year.

The program will be phased in over two years by year level starting in 2020 with Stage 1 for students in years 7-9 and Stage 2 for students in years 10-12.

Over the course of secondary school, families stand to benefit up to \$2,856 or on average around \$476 per year.

This policy will not be capped on the number of students per family nor is it means tested.

This Liberal Nationals policy will mean a family with two secondary students will save up to \$1,000 every January which will help families get back in control of the financial squeeze.

A Liberal Nationals Government will help ease the cost of living squeeze for Victorian families by paying for school textbooks for secondary students at government schools.

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