



17th June 2020

Dear Shine Bright Families,

Further to my letter dated 8th April 2020 regarding Term 2 kindergarten and prekindergarten fees, I am now able to provide an update on Term 2 fees.

Funded Kindergarten program

In April 2020, the Victorian Government announced that families would be able to send their children to sessional kindergarten for free during Term 2, by providing additional funding directly to kindergarten providers. This funding applied only to children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program.

Following some delay, we have now received this COVID-19 funding from the Department of Education and Training.

We are now in a position to provide refunds to those families who have paid their entire 2020 fees **in full**. The amount of this refund will be \$390 (equivalent to one term's worth of fees) and will be deposited into your nominated bank account. If you have not already done so, could you please email your bank account details (BSB, account number and account name) as well as your child's code or child's name to arofficer@shinebright.org.au Refunds will be paid in the week commencing 22 June 2020.

For those families paying their fees via **fortnightly direct debit**, direct debits were suspended after the payment on 24 April 2020. Direct debits will recommence on 17 July 2020.

Prekindergarten program

The COVID-19 funding support provided by the Victorian Government was not applicable to the prekindergarten program. The prekindergarten program is not funded by the Department of Education and Training and is funded solely by family fees. We had hoped that additional COVID-19 funding would be provided to cover fees for Term 2 for prekindergarten families. Unfortunately additional funding has not been made available by the Victorian Government.

However, we recognise that for many families, recent times have been extremely difficult, with many families struggling financially and many choosing not to send their children to prekindergarten in Term 2. To support our families, we have decided to reduce prekindergarten fees by 80% for Term 2. For example, if fees for the term are normally \$250, we will only charge \$50.

For those families who have paid their entire 2020 prekindergarten fees **in full**, we will provide a refund equivalent to 80% of Term 2 fees. Could you please email your bank account details (BSB, account number and account name) as well as your child's code or child's name to arofficer@shinebright.org.au. Refunds will be paid in the week commencing 22 June 2020.



For those families paying their prekindergarten fees by **fortnightly direct debit**, these direct debits have continued throughout Term 2. We will continue to process these direct debits, however we will adjust the total amount of fees owed so that these direct debits will be finished earlier in 2020 than planned.

If you have any questions in relation to 2020 fees, please contact me at chris.cope@shinebright.org.au. You can also call the Department of Education's advice line on 1800 338 663.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Cope".

Chris Cope
Finance & Business Operations Manager