



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, 3 March 2020**

**Flashmob for free education for all kids**

Community dancers converged on Federation Square this morning to highlight the problem of unaffordable school costs in Victoria. This was organised by Community Information and Support Victoria (CISVic), whose member agencies help struggling families every day.

'Education in public schools is meant to be free, but school costs are rocketing and many children miss out or are excluded from school life', said Kate Wheller, Executive Officer of CISVic.

According to a CISVic survey carried out from November to the end of February, 84 per cent of people seeking help who have dependent children, needed assistance with school costs or were short of funds for other things because of paying school costs. The items that people most often sought help with from CISVic member agencies were books and stationery, uniforms, fees, and computers and Ipads.

Over half of people with dependent children said that their children had been affected by unaffordable educational expenses. Negative affects included not being able to participate in lessons or go on excursions, and feeling left out and embarrassed.

One parent said her children 'don't like to go to school because they have missed out on excursions and camps, and don't have the right laptop and iPad'.

Another parent said her children 'have missed a lot of school, and socially it has kept them back'.

'When children have equal access to a good education, they not only flourish but the whole community benefits', said Kate Wheller.

CISVic is requesting that the Victorian Government provides adequate funding for schools to deliver the standard curriculum, and to cover all items needed to participate in it, such as technology and excursions. CISVic also urges the Federal Government to provide fair and equitable funding to the Victorian Government to properly support our state schools.

CISVic is the peak body representing local community information and support services. These services assist people experiencing personal and financial difficulties by providing information, referral and support, including emergency relief. CISVic delivers over \$2 million of emergency relief annually to people in need.

**For more information or for media comment please contact Kate Wheller, Executive Officer, Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic) at [kate@cisvic.org.au](mailto:kate@cisvic.org.au), or phone 9672 2000 0407 670 125.**

Community Information & Support Victoria