



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE ("EMA") IN 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many families at Overport Primary School have been receiving the EMA since their child/children first commenced school. Two years ago, changes were made so that schools no longer received their portion of the EMA and therefore parents were encouraged to use their parent payment to pay for Student Materials and Essential Educational Items which then left no EMA available to pay for extras such as camps, excursions and uniform.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 the EMA will be completely abolished.

Schools have been informed by the DEECD that additional funding will be provided to **only some** schools that qualify, rather than directly to parents through the EMA.

**NOT** all schools will receive this additional funding in 2015. Unfortunately our school **does not qualify** to receive additional funding in 2015.

If you are one of our many families who have relied on the EMA payment to help with school expenses, you will need to plan accordingly to ensure these expenses are budgeted for in 2015.

One of the most popular ways to keep up with school expenses is to pay via BPay. You can set up for a regular amount to come from your bank account and paid into your family school account using the BPay codes which are on your statements. You can put your account into credit so that you use the credit up at any time needed.

Other methods of payment are cash, cheque or Eftpos.  
You may, of course, choose to pay your school fees in full or by instalments.

You will find this information on the 2015 Parent Payments information, which will be sent home later this term with booklists, curriculum costs and the various levies (ie excursions etc).

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Ireland  
School Council President

Julie Gleeson  
Principal