

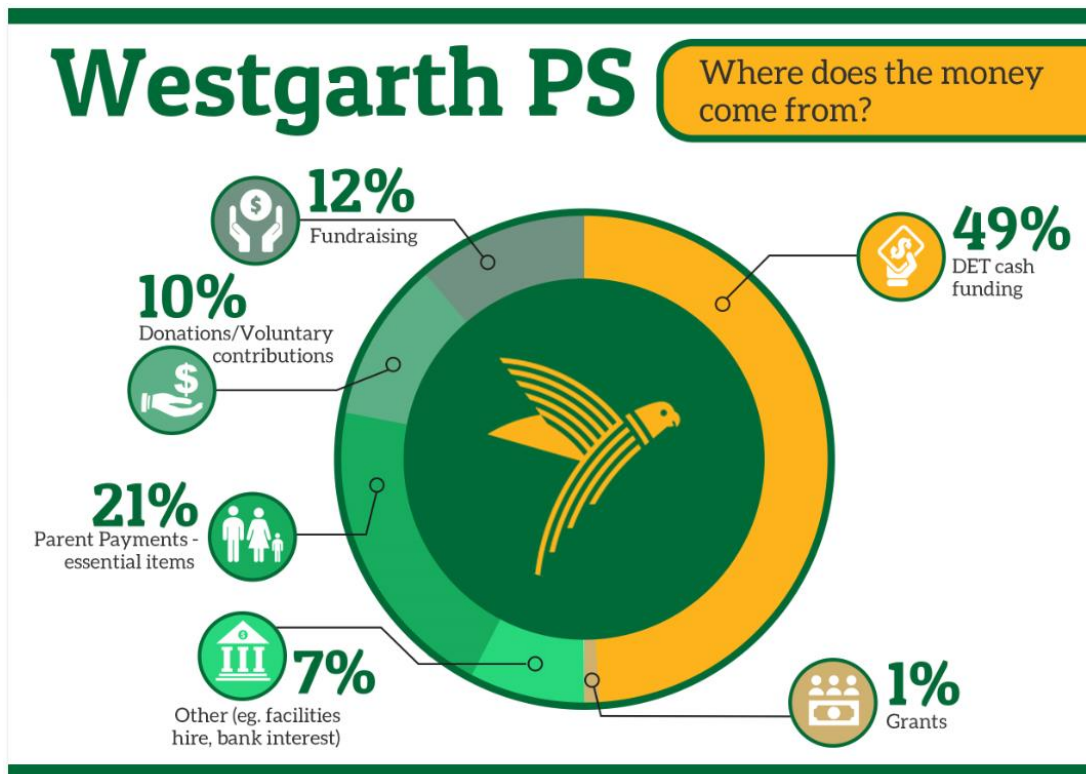
Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd February 2020

Westgarth Primary School is a well-resourced school with an excellent teaching program.

Many parents and carers are surprised to find out how much we rely on the generosity and creativity of our school families to maintain the programs and environment that we value.

The school cash funds come from six sources:



- Funding from the Department of Education and Training (DET). This cash component of our school funding is based on the number of students who attend the school and the socio-educational background of our parents and carers. Schools, such as ours, with a high Index for Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), gain the minimum in equity funding from the Department of Education.
- Parent Payments: Classroom and specialist consumable items, excursions/in-house activities and swimming as set by School Council each year.
- Voluntary contributions and donations including First Aid Officer, Maintenance & Repairs of Buildings and Grounds and the Kitchen Garden Program.
- Fundraising – in 2019 we raised \$129,331.

At Westgarth we rely on our capacity to raise funds locally. This helps to make up for the large shortfall between what we receive from government funding and what we need to run the school and its quality programs. We are fortunate to have a high level of parent participation. Our parents work hard each year to raise the money that we need through fundraising. Thanks to our creative and hardworking community, every year we have wonderful new initiatives as well as annual events that students and families look forward to.

On the next page, we have tried to show you where the money goes. The short answer is - to a huge range of programs and school expenses.

I hope that this helps you to understand why parent payments, donations and fundraising are so important and why we ask each family to contribute to our efforts to fund the school's programs. I thank you for your support and generosity.

Jo Wheeler
Principal

Where does the money go?

<p>The Education Department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic staff salaries (based on student numbers, not experience of staff – so there’s not always enough money to cover all salaries) • teacher aides for students who are funded under the programs for students with disabilities • a small amount for staff professional development • some (limited) funds to replace teachers who are absent due to illness (CRTs) • a portion of utilities costs - electricity, gas and water • a portion of administration costs • a modest amount towards the upkeep of the school building and grounds • annual safety inspections • a tiny amount of furniture • some building maintenance and urgent works • a small amount for grounds maintenance
<p>Family Contributions</p>	<p>Essential Education items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all student classroom and specialist programs consumable items: e.g. paper, exercise books, pens, cooking, planting, pencils, textas, glue sticks, cardboard, craft materials, diaries, and art materials. • printing costs • curriculum related excursions and in-house activities that children attend during the year* • Kitchen Garden food (Grades 3-5) <p>Voluntary Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ partial funding to support the continuation of the Kitchen Garden program ▪ partial funding to employment of a qualified first aid officer to provide first aid to students. ▪ partial funding for maintenance of school buildings and grounds and urgent works and projects <p>*Parents are asked to pay extra for camps, year 6 graduation, inter school sport and extra curriculum programs</p>
<p>Donations to the Tax Deductible Building Fund</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families and the community are invited to donate to special building projects including the Masterplan.
<p>Fundraising: e.g. The Fiesta, Parent & Friends events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enables the school to run high quality programs • drainage - Brooke St • concreting - Clarke St • partial roof replacement - Brooke St • whole school signage • playground equipment - Brooke St • special projects (Masterplan) – Clarke St • upgrade Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) facilities in shared STEM space (partially funded by OSHC) • ground works • removal of shipping container • new kiln installation and wiring and plumbing • a portion to play equipment, turf and tree maintenance • a portion to plumbing • a portion to garden maintenance • a portion to audio visual equipment • a portion to classroom furniture • a portion to ICT equipment • a portion to buildings maintenance • a portion to fencing maintenance and replacement