



## 2005-06 Victorian Budget



### **\$1.9 MILLION TO SPREAD MESSAGE: *IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY FROM SCHOOL***

**The successful *It's Not OK To Be Away* campaign implemented in government schools in the Gippsland region will be rolled out to all schools across the state.**

The program promotes the importance of regular school attendance. Based on the successful Gippsland program, this school attendance initiative will include:

- a toolkit for every school to help plan and deliver local school and community strategies to reduce absenteeism
- grants to schools (or groups of schools) for school-based activities to reduce absenteeism
- a website, brochures, posters and other information to parents, students and communities to highlight the importance of regular attendance at school
- a state-wide and local media campaign to promote an absenteeism awareness week, including schools sending letters to all parents.

Funding is provided for two years and will be evaluated to assess its impact. This program is designed to change community and student attitudes to school attendance and drive home the message that it's not OK to be away from school.

Research indicates a direct correlation between a child's school attendance and their learning success.

***The program will run in conjunction with current pilot programs that utilise electronic data to record students' school attendance.***