

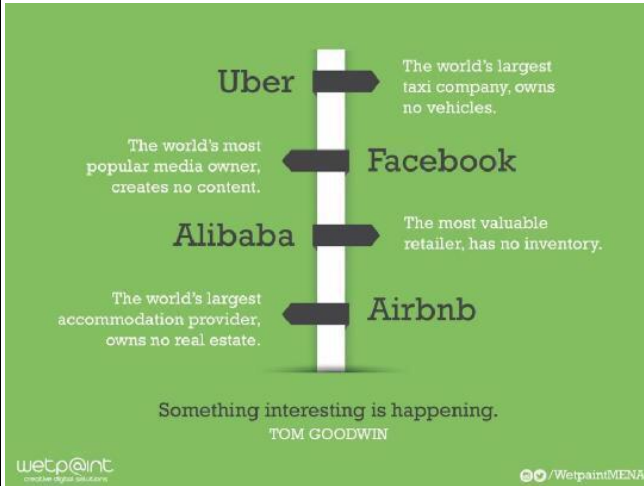
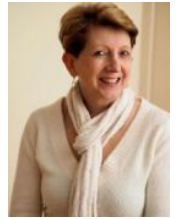
**DIARY DATES**

- Thursday 16 February**  
Year 2 Parent Information Meeting, 6.00pm
- Wednesday 22 February**  
P & F Meeting, 7.00pm
- Wednesday 1 March**  
Ash Wednesday Mass, Years 3-6, 9.00am  
Ash Wednesday Prayer, Infants, 11.30am in Church
- Mon-Fri 6-10 March**  
Catholic Schools Week
- Tuesday 7 March**  
2018 Kinders Open Morning, 9.00-11.00am
- Thursday 9 March**  
Celebrations of Learning 9.15am  
Parent Workshop – Maths 10.30am
- Thursday 16 March**  
Kindergarten Munch & Crunch Fundraiser
- Wednesday 22 March**  
P & F Meeting, 7.00pm
- Monday 24 April**  
**PUPIL FREE DAY**
- Wednesday 26 April**  
ANZAC Day Prayer, 10.15am
- Thurs/Fri 27/28 April**  
Year 6 in Canberra
- Thursday 11 May**  
Mothers' Day Stall
- Friday 12 May**  
Mothers' Day Mass and High Tea, 9.00am
- Wednesday 24 May**  
Feast of Mary Help of Christians Prayer
- Wednesday 31 May**  
P & F Cookie Dough Promotion
- Friday 23 June**  
Feast of Sacred Heart Mass, 9.15am
- Saturday 24 June**  
OLOW School and Parish Trivia Night
- Friday 18 August**  
**PUPIL FREE DAY**
- Sunday 22 October**  
**OLOW SCHOOL FETE**

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

"We are currently preparing our students for jobs that don't exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."

-Karl Fisch-



What a huge responsibility our teachers have in educating your children for an unknown future! At Our Lady of the Way, we are trying very hard to set your children (our students) up for success. Our current Kindergarten students will finish their High School education in October 2029.

We are ensuring our students have the key skills and competencies to undertake any work challenge in 2030 when they start their tertiary education or enter the workforce. They need to be creative problem solvers, collaborative and articulate team members

that can think critically about the issues being presented. This is the world we are living in. This is not the future; this is what is happening right now.

These words of encouragement were given to one of our teachers last week from a student - 'That's O.K. you're still learning!' How wonderful that our students are growing this capacity to recognise that learning something new takes lots of opportunity, mixed with failure and supported by encouragement. The teachers are constantly reminding the students about having a growth mindset approach to all their learning and in fact to life in general.

Here are some of the important messages that we focus on:-

- we can treat our brain like a muscle that can grow stronger
- challenging and hard learning improves our brain
- everyone learns in a different way
- it takes time, effort, persistence, and willingness to 'have a go' when we are learning something new
- we learn so much from our failures and mistakes
- other people's success is something to be learned from
- feedback provides the opportunity to implement new and better ideas for learning from others

There is powerful and conclusive evidence found in educational research, (2007, pg. 1) Every Parent Matters , 2007 UK.) that parents and the home environment created, are the single most important factors in shaping children's achievements and prospects.

With this in mind, teachers recognise the significant contribution that parents make to the nurturing of a growth mindset in children. To support your child's learning development at school, we would like to share with you some Growth Mindset responses that you can use instead of saying 'you are smart' to encourage your child at home when they are learning –

- Your hard work has really paid off
- I'm proud of you for giving it your best effort
- You never give up even when it is hard
- You are not afraid of a challenge: I like that!
- You showed great perseverance reaching your goal
- You have such a positive attitude
- I am happy that you figured that out for yourself.



May God Bless You,  
Mrs Sue Veling  
Principal

### OUR LADY OF THE WAY MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Lady of the Way is a Catholic community in which children, teachers and parents nurture a sense of personal worth as they work together in a safe, happy, challenging and faith-centred learning environment.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR TERM 1 WEEKS 2 & 3



Ethan, Houlihan, Jett Levy, Layla Pascoe, Nathan Moore, Asha Morris, Milli Storek, Ethan Knott, Abby Calleja, Demi Boormakin, Christopher Elias, Archie Prendergast, Harry Lewandowski, Thomas Vanegas, Mason Eekman, Talisha North, Henry Starr, Beau Edmonds, Hannah Fullam, Carter Pereira, Eden Chapman, Kees Muller, Tyler Clifford, Layla Starr, Ava Dyrka, Iven So, Hayley Burton, Kate Budge, Samuel Thompson, Chloe Riley, Blake Skinner, Josh Robinson.

### FINANCE SECRETARY

The CEDP have appointed Ms Pascale Vion as our new Senior Finance Officer. We congratulate Ms Vion on her appointment and I know you will warmly welcome her to our community.



### OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Thank you to the many parents and visitors who joined us for our beautiful opening school mass held last Friday. Mrs Day and our teachers put together a moving ceremony. We thank Fr. Mick for celebrating with us, our altar servers Kate Roser and Erin Downie and our students for their reverent and joyful-filled way they participate.

## 2017 PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The first P&F meeting for 2017 will be held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7:00pm. Please come along and get involved, particularly in this fete year!

The money raised throughout the year by the P&F goes towards investing in *Our Lady of the Way School*, so your child will ultimately benefit. The P&F is also about helping to build community.

### PUPIL FREE DAY

Our next Pupil Free Day will be held in Term 2 on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April – the first day back after the holidays.

**PUPIL-FREE  
DAY**

***Student goals that have been set with each student for writing, numeracy and learning behaviours will be sent home on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.***

### OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2017

Dates have been set for parents who wish their child to receive the following Sacraments of Initiation in 2017.

**Reconciliation** - in Term 1 (Children in Year 3 or above)

**First Holy Communion** - in Term 2 (Children in Year 4 or above who have made their first Reconciliation)

**Confirmation** - in Term 3 (Children in Year 5 or above)

If you require further information, please speak to Julie at the school office or Chrissy at the Parish Office.

### ROAD SAFETY REMINDER – NO PARKING IN THE STAFF CARPARK (Troy Street)

A message to our new parents and a reminder to existing parents - As indicated by the signs, parents are asked not to park in the staff/parish car park. Children regularly walk through this area before and after school and are not aware of cars reversing or moving in and out. After a near-miss last year, we ask that you use the parking available in the street.

**Our major concern is the safety of every family!**

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

At times during the year, Our Lady of the Way students have the opportunity to be photographed and videoed. These photos and videos may be used as part of grade assessments, be uploaded to the school Facebook page, Twitter, Skoolbag etc., the school website or placed in school publications such as the Parent Handbook. Photographs may also be used in publications to promote the school in newspapers and other media.

When you enrolled your child, you gave us permission to do this. If you wish to withdraw this authorisation and consent, please notify the school in writing.

### SRC 2017

Congratulations to our **Student Representative Council** elected last week to represent 'student voice' at OLOW. The team members include:

School Captains: Daniel Prendergast; Benjamin Robinson; Layla Starr; Jorja Tabor

SRC Leaders: Espri Footman; Bailey Latham; Sophia Lusk; Kennedy Storr

Year 5 Members: Erin Downie; Harry Lewandowski

Year 4 Members: Cooper Hartstonge; Sienna Footman

Year 3 Members: Ava Grech; Abby Godwin

Year 2 Members: Jacinta Roser; Carte Pereira

Year 1 Members: Mikayla Blazek; Luka Kuster

An SRC is a group of students elected by their peers to represent all students in the school and organise ways for students to participate in school life. The SRC works as a team to represent the student body in school decision-making. The students work together, with help from staff members, to improve school life and to contribute students' ideas. The SRC meet twice a term.



## LOW NEW PHONE NUMBER

If the school has rung you, you may have noticed a new phone number appearing on your screen. We have just been notified that we have a new phone number. CEDP are installing a new phone system across the Diocese and our existing numbers do not comply. Our new number is **4777 7200**. The old number will continue to be diverted to the school for a few months.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES -EVERY DAY COUNTS-

The Attendance Guidelines are based on current legislative requirements, research on attendance and best practice. The key points are:

- Attendance affects a child's academic achievement and their overall wellbeing.
- There is NO safe threshold of absence – every day counts.
- School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor of future attendance patterns.
- The effects of school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.
- Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical. Important learning is scheduled during this time when children are rested and receptive. Key concepts are built up in the time.
- Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absences over consecutive days.
- We ALL need to work together with our children's best interest in mind to ensure that students are at school every day that they are well enough to attend – they only get one go at this part of their education and every day counts

Below is a table showing the thresholds established across the Diocese for student attendance and the accumulated effects over 10 years of school time lost.

<b>Attendance Level</b>	<b>Student Absence</b>	<b>Educational Risk</b>	<b>Days absent per year</b>	<b>Cumulative Absence over 10 years of school</b>
90% or more	<b>Regular</b>	Low or zero	20 days or less	Adds up to 1 year or less schooling missed
80%-89%	<b>Emerging</b>	Medium	Between 20-40 days	Adds up to 1-2 years schooling missed
70%-79%	<b>Chronic</b>	High	Between 40-60 days	Adds up to 2-3 years schooling missed
69% or lower	<b>Complex</b>	Severe	60 or more days	Adds up to 3 years plus schooling missed

The following information outlines the procedures for all schools in our Diocese in regard to attendance. Guidelines stipulate that attendance below a certain level must be followed up in a formal way.

- Firstly, if your child has an Attendance Level of below 90%, i.e. more than 5 days absent out of a 50-day term, a note will come home letting you know that that is the case. This note will include the number of days your child has been absent.
- For children whose Attendance Level is below 80%, i.e. 8 or more days per term, as per the guidelines parents will be contacted and invited to school to attend an Attendance Planning Meeting. The ultimate aim is to improve attendance in order to improve student's learning outcomes.
- We are very aware that some children have chronic medical conditions or have had surgery, resulting in prolonged periods of absence. Please be assured this will be taken into account. Thank you for your support in this vital area.

# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## What is Project Based Learning

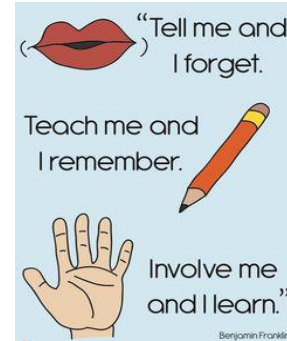


Project Based Learning (PBL) refers to students designing, planning and carrying out an extended project that produces a product, publication or presentation. Well designed PBL enables the students to drive the learning where the teacher acts as a facilitator and works beside the student asking questions.

As teachers, we always need to be looking for new and exciting ways to teach our 21st century students to the best of our ability. PBL is one way we can do exactly that.

PBL allows students to:

- come up with a solution to a real world problem
- be inspired and engaged
- research their topic
- work collaboratively
- develop confidence
- work independently
- use the knowledge they gain
- use technology in the classroom
- solve problems and think critically
- present their findings and solutions in a variety of ways



Our Year 5 and 6 students have already embarked on their first PBL focussing on *Natural Disasters*. The driving question for this project is:

### **How can we, as emergency preparation teams, help people to be planned to survive a natural disaster?**

The students are already so engaged in the first steps of this project. They are working in small groups, pairs and individually to research a chosen Natural Disaster answering some key questions. We look forward to seeing their projects develop.

**Emma Mizzi**

Assistant Principal

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## **THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

The Emu Plains Parish St Vincent de Paul group extends its thanks to the students and staff of Our Lady of the Way Primary School for their generosity in providing goods for the 2016 Christmas Hampers.

The support from parents, children and teachers meant that we were able to provide over forty hampers to people in need in our community.

Your continuing kindness with the food, toys and cash donations helped to brighten up Christmas for many individuals and families.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Dates again for your information:

### **Reconciliation Program**

Parent Information Evenings	Tuesday Thursday	February 28 March 2	7:30pm 7:30pm
Enrolment Mass	Saturday Sunday	March 11 March 12	6:00pm 8:00am & 9:30am
Lessons	Week 1 - Monday Week 2 - Monday	March 13 March 20	
Rite of Reconciliation	Wednesday	March 29	7:30pm

## Food Drive for Mama Lana's:

Our school will be helping to support the work of Mama Lana's by inviting families to bring in much needed food items during **Week 6**. Our Outreach Team will be helping to support this initiative.



Lana is in need of items such as:

Tea and coffee  
Sugar  
Milo  
Peanut Butter

Vegemite  
Honey  
Serviettes  
Rice

Pasta  
Canned tomatoes  
Mens and ladies deodorant

A reminder note will be sent out next week.

## Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday, March 1 marks the first day of the season of Lent. Our school will be acknowledging the day in two ways: Years 3 to 6 will be attending the Parish Mass at 9:00am and Kindergarten to Year 2 will be holding a liturgy in the church at 11:30am. You are all very welcome to attend either of these celebrations.

## Carole Day

Religious Education Coordinator

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM – SESSION ONE

CCSS Solo Parent Services is running a fortnightly Bereavement Support Program for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or partner. Topic for this session "*The Psychological Effects of Grief*".

**Date:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. **Time:** 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Venue:** 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Cost: \$5.00. **Registration Essential:** Phone Rita: 8822 2222 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

### YOUNGER WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP

Younger Widowed Support Group run by CCSS Solo Parent Services' is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The Support Group is for men and women widowed at a younger age whether you are a parent or not.

**First gathering for the year:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. **Please note change of Venue:** CCSS Centre, 38 Prince St, (cnr First Ave) Blacktown. **Time:** 7pm – 9pm Cost: \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

### STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

"Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those struggling through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering:** 28<sup>th</sup> February **Venue:** CCSS centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown.

**New Time:** 7pm – 9pm. Cost: \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

## St Finbar's (Glenbrook) Netball Club

Register now to play Netball this winter!

Register online at [stfinbarsnc.nsw.netball.com.au](http://stfinbarsnc.nsw.netball.com.au) or in the Parish Hall (Levy St, Glenbrook) on Saturday 11 February from 9am - 12pm.

Seniors - \$200  
Juniors (11 - 17) - \$180  
Netta - \$155  
PWD's - \$150

Proof of age required for all new players.

If you have any question please contact our Registrar, Jodie Eisenhuth, on 0417 771 673 or our Club Secretary, Janette Ankers on 0438 672 040.



**Caroline Chisholm**  
COLLEGE

**2018 ENROLMENTS**  
FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

**Open night: Monday 6th March 2017 (6 - 8:30pm)**

Come along and see for yourself why girls are so happy to learn at Caroline Chisholm College. Information sessions:

**6:30 to 7pm - 7:30 to 8pm**  
**Tours of College Facilities**

Further information can be obtained on our website [www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au)

**90 - 98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park**  
Enrolment packages can be obtained by contacting the college on **4737 5500**

Follow us on  



**Enrolments for 2018 now open!**

**St Dominic's College**  
**2017 OPEN DAY**  
**Sunday the 5th of March**

You are invited to join us for our Annual Open Day at the College from 10am to 2.30pm.

The morning session starts at 10:00am, followed by a tour of the College at 10:30am.

The afternoon session starts at 12:30pm followed by a tour of the College at 1:00pm.



**ST DOMINIC'S**  
COLLEGE  
*Dominus Lux Mea*  
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT



St Dominic's College 54 - 94 Gascoigne Street Kingswood NSW 2747  
ABN 12 838 505 432 Ph: 02 4731 1933 Fax: 02 421 0166  
Email [info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au) Website: [www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)



# 'ZERO TOLERANCE' OF ILLEGAL PARKING IN SCHOOL ZONES TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD

When it comes to the safety of vulnerable road users like school children, drivers found breaking the law will be met with zero tolerance.

Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need you to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones

WHEN AN OFFENCE IS DETECTED A FINE AND 2 DEMERIT POINTS APPLY

Illegal parking around schools endangers children's lives.

**PENRITH  
CITY COUNCIL**

## FACT/S

If you've heard the expression "It's only a matter of time until someone gets hurt" then you understand why it is important for everyone to obey the road rules.

A child hit at an impact speed of 30km/hr has a 99% chance of surviving. At 70km/hr the chance of survival is less than 7%.

Source Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

### What does this mean?

You cannot stop in this area for any reason.

### Why is it there?

To keep sight distance clear for drivers, children & other pedestrians to avoid crashes.



### What does this mean?

You cannot stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

### Why is it there?

To provide a safe place for buses to set down & pick up passengers



### What does this mean?

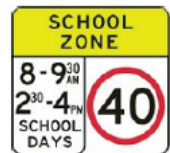
You can stop in this area to drop off or pick up passengers for a maximum of 2 minutes. You must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.

### Why is it there?

To provide safe places for children to be picked up - usually associated with Kiss & Ride zones.



40 km/hr School Zones are provided to increase the safety of all pedestrians, but especially children, who are walking in the vicinity of schools. Obey the limit and be aware of the time of day.



Parking on footpaths/nature strips is an offence - fines can be issued that include the loss of 2 demerit points.

**PENRITH  
CITY COUNCIL**



**APPROVED SOCCER TRAINING FOR KIDS AGED 18MONTHS TO 7 YEARS  
Offering classes in Emu Plains**

Call: 0412 973 346

Email: [penrith@littlekickers.com.au](mailto:penrith@littlekickers.com.au)

[www.littlekickers.com.au](http://www.littlekickers.com.au)

**Class Times: Wednesday 9:30am 18-27 months; 10:30am 2 to 3.5 years; 11:30am 3.5 to 5 years**

**Saturday: 8:00am 18-27 months; 9:00am 2 to 3.5 years; 10:00am 3.5 to 5 years**



## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

### 4 MONTH MEMBERSHIP

This option lets you try BMX racing before purchasing a full year licence. If you like BMX racing you can then upgrade to a full BMX Australia membership and use the 4 month membership for a discount.

### BMX MINI WHEELER MEMBERSHIP

Ages 2 - 4; BMX Australia's entry level membership using balance bikes to learn the elementary skills for riding. Participation class.

### SPROCKET ROCKET

Ages 5 - 7; participation class. Includes a Sprocket pack.

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP

All Riders from 8 years and above. Allows you to ride at club level events hosted by the Club you have joined.

### OPEN MEMBERSHIP

All Riders from 8 years and above. Allows you to ride in all Club, State and National Events.

Memberships (except 4 month memberships) are valid for 12 months from date of purchase and must be renewed each year through your club administration.

## FAST FUN AND ACTION PACKED

BMX is a fast and fun action sport with jumps and turns on a track which can be 300 to 400 metres in length.

When Riders become experienced in BMX they can launch down 5-8 metre start ramps, navigate over jumps and fly around berms.

The sport is exciting, action packed and is great exercise for kids and adults alike.



Australian Capital Territory  
P: 0617 488 904  
E: act@bmxaustralia.com.au



New South Wales  
P: 0610 637 007  
E: nsw@bmxaustralia.com.au



Northern Territory  
P: 08 9071 9007  
E: nt@bmxaustralia.com



Queensland  
P: 07 3345 3012  
E: qld@bmx.org.au



South Australia  
P: 0814 377 129  
E: sa@bmxaustralia.com.au



Tasmania  
P: 0412 418 800  
E: tas@bmxaustralia.com



Victoria  
P: 0411 791 676  
E: vic@bmxaustralia.com.au



Western Australia  
P: 08 6336 8645  
E: wa@bmxaustralia.com.au

## YOUR LOCAL CLUB DETAILS

**Penrith BMX Club**  
Creek Rd St Marys (Blair oval just past Ripples Pools)

**Sat Feb 18th 10am - 12**  
**0434267785**  
find us on facebook

**BMX Australia**  
(02) 9008 1300  
info@bmxaustralia.com.au  
www.bmxaustralia.com.au

YouTube BMX Australia

Facebook @BMXAustralia

Twitter @BMXAustralia

Instagram @BMXAustralia



# GET ON YOUR BIKE AND RIDE





# Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills\*



Help is available to pay  
your energy bills.

For information on  
rebates and emergency  
assistance go to:

[www.resourcesandenergy  
.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates)

or phone Service NSW  
on 137 788

\* eligibility criteria apply

## YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Family Energy Rebate\*** – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

**NSW Gas Rebate\*** – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

**Medical Energy Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

**Low Income Household Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

**Life Support Rebate\*** – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

**EAPA\*** – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates) for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

## REMEMBER

If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.