

Fundraising dinner

Services seek to raise money for bigger work premises

Community | Elizabeth Allen

THE Victorian Arabic Social Services in Broadmeadows is calling on Hume residents to have a night out for a good cause – giving them more space to support the community.

The service will hold a fundraising dinner, including a three-course meal and entertainment from the Anti Racism Action Band and emerging artists, on March 10.

Manager Leila Alloush said the service needed \$60,000 to help it move into a new building on Camp Rd which would allow it to use meeting rooms, offer training facilities and provide information and referrals to services.

Ms Alloush said the service needed more space to meet the demands for their services.

"The need from the community is greater than our resources," Ms

Alloush said. "Sometimes we have people come in and there are no chairs and nowhere to sit."

She encouraged the community to attend the fundraising dinner for a beautiful meal and great entertainment, and to support a good cause.

It will be held at Aurora Receptions, 149 Donald St, Brunswick East, on Thursday, March 10 at 6pm.

Tickets: \$65/\$100. Details: 9309 0055 or email mail@vass.org.au



Leila Alloush wants Hume residents to have a good night for a good cause. N36H051K

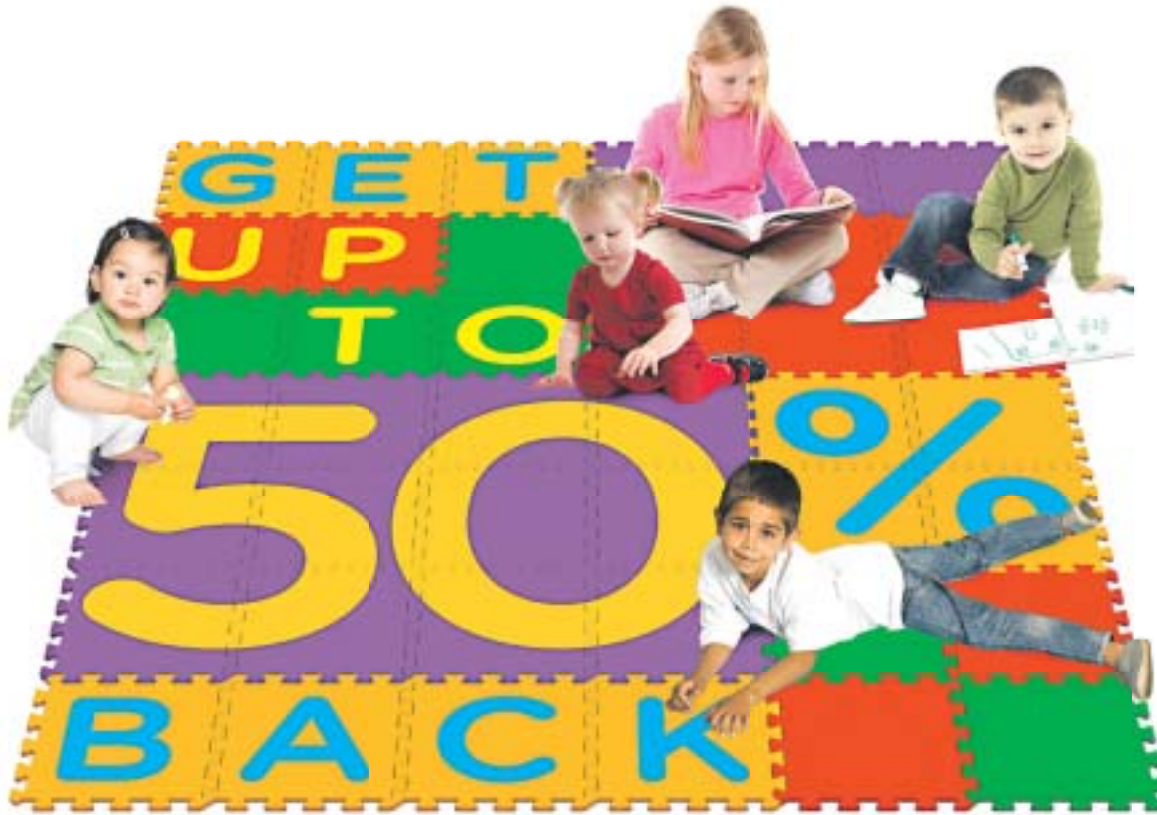
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Australian Government

The Child Care Rebate helps meet the cost of child care.

Make sure you check your eligibility.



The Australian Government offers two types of financial assistance for child care: the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate.

Even if you don't receive the Child Care Benefit you may still be eligible for the Rebate.

It pays up to 50% of your out-of-pocket expenses per child per year up to an annual cap.

The Rebate helps to cover the costs of any approved child care, including out of school hours care.

If you use approved child care for work, study or training, you should check your eligibility.

For more information on how you can claim what you are entitled to visit australia.gov.au/mychild or call the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50



Child Care Rebate
Helping families with the cost of child care

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra

In Brief

Claiming school costs

PARENTS may be able to claim back-to-school costs as part of child support. Child Support Agency spokesperson Toni Brown said separated parents should discuss how child support should be paid and if both agree, items such as children's music and dance lessons or sports fees may be credited as child support payments. If parents do not agree a proportion of school expenses such as fees, textbooks and uniforms can be considered in lieu of child support. Details: csa.gov.au or 13 1272.

Comedians take centre stage

THE 25th Melbourne International Comedy Festival will showcase more than 1000 performers. The festival will include a free family program, the Very Big Laugh Out, featuring the best in outdoor physical comedy in the City Square, Federation Square and Yarra Terrace. Comic favourites including Fiona O'Loughlin (right), Scared Weird Little Guys, Peter Helliar and Rod Quantock will perform. The festival will run from March 30 to April 24. Details: comedyfestival.com.au



Multicultural projects

GRANTS are available for activities and projects in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The Victorian Multicultural Commission encourages new and emerging communities to start projects that foster community participation, understanding and respect. Details: 1300 366 356 or multicultural.vic.gov.au

Grants to help charities

APPLICATIONS are open for grants from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. Charities can apply for grants of up to \$40,000 in the categories of health, life care, family, environment and arts, sport and education. More than \$3 million was distributed to 250 charities last year. Applications close at the end of next month. Details: lmcf.org.au or 9633 0021.

Greyhound board roles open

THE State Government is calling for expressions of interest for the Greyhound Racing Victoria Board. Racing Minister Denis Naphine called on leaders in racing, business and marketing to consider taking an active role. Expressions of interest close on March 18. Details: justice.vic.gov.au

Challenge for eisteddfod rockers

ROCK Eisteddfod Challenge and J Rock are urging schools to enter their upcoming tour. The challenge encourages teamwork, confidence and performance skills through song and dance. Last year's event was cancelled because of a lack of funding. More than 20,000 students are expected to participate and the national grand final will be broadcast on television. Details: rockchallenge.com.au