



Ministry of Education and Training

Australian High Commission

Vanuatu

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Over 320 million vatu for School Community Grant program

Port-Vila, Vanuatu – 13 October 2020: The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and the Australian Government announced a new, one-off Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant totalling over 320 million vatu to help local communities in challenging times. The launch of the new grant coincided with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October) which raises awareness about how communities are mitigating the impact of disasters.

To mark this special day, the Director General of the MoET, Mr Bergmans Iati, and the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten, launched and explained the details of the Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant. This grant is a one-off additional grant which aims to provide an economic boost to local communities. The grant encourages the use of local resources to meet school needs outlined in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) or to conduct other activities that will benefit the community.

All registered Government and Government-assisted primary schools will receive in November 2020 a one-off bonus grant of 5,780VT per student, based on their school enrolment in Open VEMIS.

Principals must consult the School Council and the School Community Association on the use of the grant following the grant criteria. Some examples of the use of the Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant could be community gardens, meals for students, maintenance or minor repairs of buildings or building toilets or handwashing facilities.

“Australia is proud to keep working closely with Vanuatu in this difficult time. School continuity and support to local communities are essential. We look forward to innovative projects benefiting not only students but also schools and school communities,” said Australia’s High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten.

“We encourage community members to get in touch with their principal and the School Community Council to provide inputs in the use of this grant. The use of the Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant must meet the requirements. This one-off bonus grant will boost the local economy while improving the standards of the schools,” added Director General of the MoET Bergmans Iati.

Additional information on the Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant is available on the Ministry of Education and Training website: <https://moet.gov.vu/index.php?id=grant-funding>
The initiative is led by the Ministry of Education and Training and funded by the Australian Government.

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