

COVID-19



VACCA
Connected by culture

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL
CHILD CARE AGENCY

Adapting to the Changes in Education

As you know, the Victorian government introduced changes to the education system at the start of Term 2. If you have school aged children in your care, you currently have two options in relation to their education: you can send your children to school; or you can support their learning at home. Here is some information to help you with whichever option you've decided is best for you and your children.

Supporting your children and yourself whilst learning at home

Congratulations on making it through the first weeks of your children learning from home. We appreciate that you're probably still coming to terms with an approach to schooling which has brought a new dimension to your role as a parent and/or carer.

We hope that your school has been working hard to communicate with you and to support you through this period of adjustment. By now you should be receiving schoolwork and timetables to help you set up the routine for each day. Also, your school should be assisting you with the technology to enable your children to learn remotely. If you are not receiving the help you need from your school, please talk to your caseworker and follow up with your school.

We encourage everyone to:

- Set up a space where your child/children can do their schoolwork. If you don't have a suitable desk or chair for your child/children, please ask your caseworker for help.
- This space will ideally be away from distractions, to help children **focus** and complete their work.
- Set up a **routine** for your child's learning as soon as you can.
- Remember you do not have to become the teacher – you are there to support their learning.
- If your child does not understand what they are meant to do, and you are unable to help them:
 - Encourage the child to move on to the next activity instead of getting stuck and frustrated.
 - Check in with their teacher when convenient.
- Encourage and praise your children for doing the best they can and adapting to a different way of learning.

Remember to take time out during the day for yourself. Reach out to your case worker, friend or support person if you need a debrief. You are not alone! Don't let school issues create tension or fights at home. An unfinished school task is not the end of the world.

Keep up the great work and remember, learning from home won't last forever.....

Supporting your children to attend their school

The Victorian Government determined that children and young people in care can continue to attend school. If you decided to take up this option, we hope your experience has been positive and that your school has been welcoming. However, we are aware that some of you experienced some challenges at the start of Term 2. We want to stress that, if necessary, we are here to advocate strongly to ensure the learning needs of your children are being well catered for at school. Please contact your caseworker if you have any concerns and we will do our best to support you and your children.