Dear parents/carers

**Re: Free Little Angler Kits from the Victorian Government**

The Victorian Government is investing $1.5 million from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Fund to provide up to 95,000 'Little Angler Kits' to Grade 5 primary school students and all primary aged students in specialist schools across Victoria, free of charge. These kits aim to offer children and their families a school holiday activity while promoting environmental stewardship and fostering a love for nature among children.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) will deliver the kits to eligible schools between 30 October 2023 and 29 February 2024. Each Little Angler Kit includes a fishing rod, reel, line, tackle box, tackle and information on how to use the equipment to catch fish.

It is important to note the tackle tray includes fishing hooks. The tackle tray will be wrapped in cardboard and placed inside a pocket inside the fishing kit bag, which will be sealed with a cable tie to discourage students from opening their kits until they are with a parent or carer. Teachers will also tell students not to open the kits until they are safely at home with a parent or carer.

The program is voluntary, and we support parents and carers in making decisions that align with their family values and beliefs. You can choose to opt out of receiving a Little Angler Kit for any reason. You can also contact the school to request an adult pick up the kit from the school if you prefer.

To opt out of receiving a kit or to request that an adult pick up your child’s kit from [insert school location], please notify the school by [insert school’s preferred date] via [insert school’s preferred communication method].

Please note that if you do not opt out, your child will be provided with a Little Angler Kit to take home from school.

To further enhance the learning experience, the VFA has created a dedicated 'Little Angler Hub' on its website which will be live by Tuesday 10 October 2023. This online resource will provide useful information, instructional videos and additional online materials related to fishing. These will include existing resources from Fishcare Victoria and new resources tailored specifically for the Little Angler Kits program.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Little Angler Kits program or the opt-out process, please refer to the attached frequently asked questions document, which includes contact information for the project manager at the VFA.

Yours sincerely

Victorian Fisheries Authority