



Copyright Agency licensed copy
(www.copyright.com.au)

SCHOOLS

Payment so easy with app

NO CASH HELPS OUT PARENTS

Jesse Wray-McCann

SCHOOLS in Mordialloc-Chelsea are among those pioneering new technology that means kids will no longer have to take cash to school to pay for things like lunch and excursions.

Mentone Primary School was among eight schools to be involved in the pilot of Commonwealth Bank and MasterCard's QkR app, while Chelsea Primary School and Mentone Park Primary School are already using the app after its launch last week.

The app offers mobile payment technology and aims to save parents time.

Parents can order school meals, contribute to fund raising and pay for items such as uniforms using the app.

Mentone Primary School mother Karen said the app made life easier for her family.

"It was so much easier just to do it all on my iPad, instead of sending the kids off to school with exactly the



right change for school lunches or paper forms and cash for things like uniforms and excursions," she said.

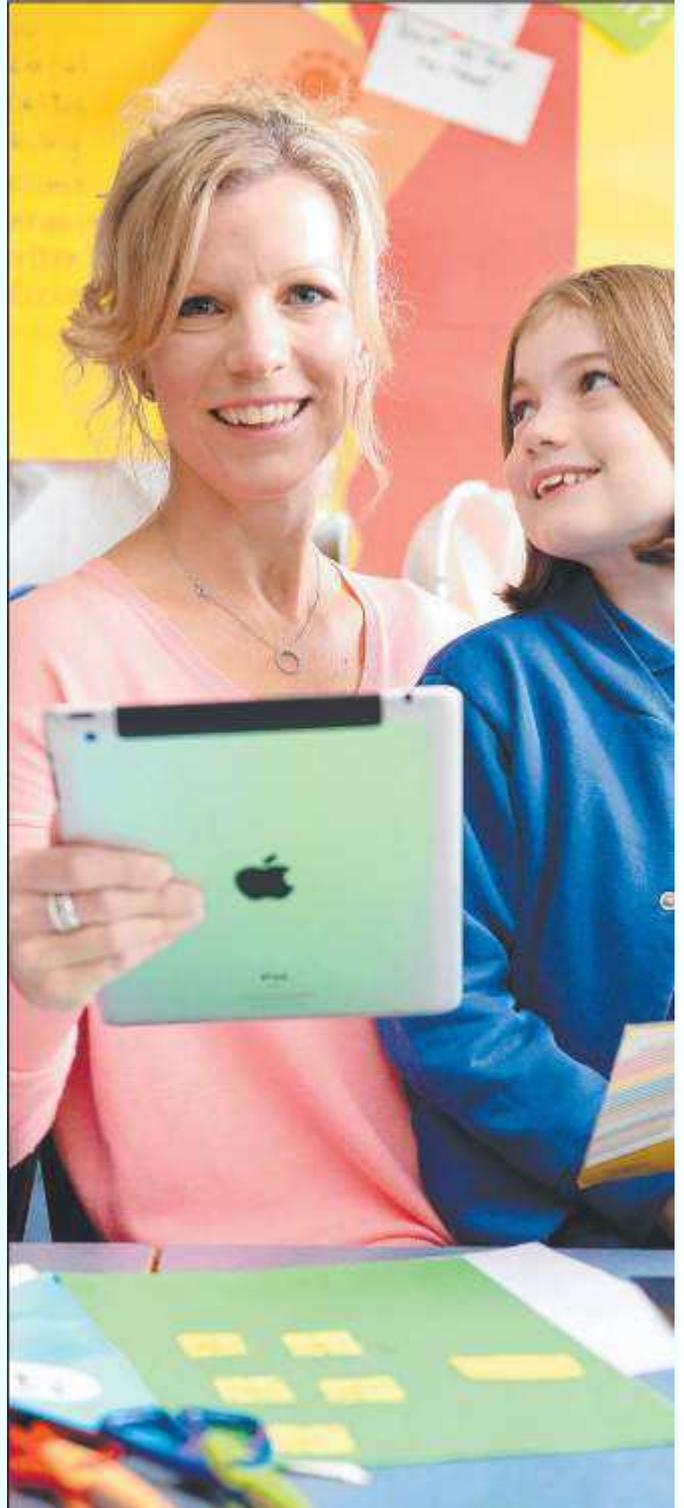
"It's pretty simple and it takes a load of work off the school staff as well."

Minister for Education Martin Dixon, who helped launch QkR, said technology played an important role in reducing the administrative burden.

"It has allowed our schools to focus on what they do best – educating our future generations," Mr Dixon said.

Commonwealth Bank spokesman Nick Aronson said QkR would give parents greater control.

"My parents used to send me to school with my brown paper bag and loose change, but I'd spent it all at recess leaving me hungry by the time the lunch bell went," Mr Aronson said.



Busy mum Karen, with daughter Georgia, 9, tries out the new Commonwealth Bank app that allows parents to pay for school-related items for their children, like uniforms, lunches and school excursions.