

# Teens affected by job losses

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## Teens affected by job losses



Part-time and casual jobs for teenagers have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEARLY 20 per cent of Victorian teenagers lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, costing them valuable pocket money and work experience.

According to a survey by the Financial Basics Foundation, another 13 per cent have also had their hours cut as the pandemic placed financial pressure on businesses struggling to stay open.

Financial Basics Foundation chair Brigid Leishman said 16.5 per cent of Victorian parents admitted to struggling to make ends meet since the coronavirus crisis began.

"Almost a third of Victorian respondents had completely overhauled their budget during COVID-19 and, for some, their teenagers miss out on pocket money or their mobile phone," she said.

The survey also showed half the parents had accessed financial support during COVID-19, such as government payments, rent relief, superannuation and even fast-cash loans.

"Some had to arrange school fee payment plans, suspended car leases and even received food from a charity," Ms Leishman said.

Lancefield teenager Chloe Hansen lost three jobs due to the pandemic, affecting her ability to contribute to her family's weekly income.

Before the pandemic hit Australian shores, the 16-year-old held three jobs, at a school camp, a youth group and an ice cream shop.

Chloe said she was earning up to \$225 a week and used the money to contribute to any extracurricular activities she participated in.

"I pay my own phone bill and buy anything that's not a necessity and help out my parents where I can," she said.

"It's been pretty annoying because I was using that money to save for my future.

"I was planning on doing a lot of travelling so I was saving that up.

"I also pay for Netflix, Spotify and things like that, and I haven't been able to contribute for a little while.

"My parents were pretty disappointed for me but it was something that was inevitable.

"It wasn't something anyone could control so no one's mad or anything. It's just disappointing."