Top-up money for kids comic

Front cover

The cover has the title ‘Top-up money for kids’. It has a cartoon of an Aboriginal family standing in front of a store. A teenager is holding a box of groceries. Two women are holding bags of groceries and one is feeding a baby a banana. A young child is holding a shirt with the tag still attached. A woman is passing, holding hands with a child. She says, ‘You mob rich?’ The word ‘rich’ is underlined for emphasis.

Inside front cover

On the inside of the cover is a drawing of an Aboriginal man and a woman. The woman is asking ‘Top-up? What’s that?’

Next to them are the words:

FAS

Top-Up Money is “FAS” or Family Allowance Supplement

FAS

Page 1

Panel 1

The family from the front cover sit on a rock. There is a grandmother, a teenage boy, and a child. The woman from the cover is holding a baby and entering a building with ‘Post Office’ and ‘Store’ written on it.

As she does, she calls out to the group on the rock, ‘You mob – your father coming soon!’

Panel 2

Inside the post office, an Aboriginal clerk standing behind a desk asks the woman, ‘You want your money – Janie?’ He holds out an envelope.

‘Yeah!’ Janie replies.

Panel 3

Back outside the post office, the grandmother on the rock says to Janie, ‘You got the kids’ money?’

Page 2

Panel 1

Inside a store, the family from the rock, along with Janie, are shopping. The man pushes the trolley, which is full of food. He holds a box of Weetbix. ‘This one?’ he asks. ‘Yeah!’ Janie replies.

Panel 2

The grandmother holds up a packaged item. ‘… Here Janie. For soup-soup!’ she says.

Panel 3

The family pays at the register. A white person serves them.

Page 3

Panel 1

The family is standing outside the store. Janie says, ‘This kids top-up money is good!’ The word ‘good’ is underlined and bold for emphasis.

The grandmother replies, ‘True! Helps buy tucker for the kids!’

Panel 2

Another family comes over. ‘Hey! You mob rich?’ the father of the family asks.

Janie replies, ‘Kids money came today. You get more with top up!’

Page 4

There is a picture of the mother and father of the other family. The mother is asks, ‘Top up? What’s that?’

Beside it is a box with information: Top-up money is “FAS” or Family Allowance Supplement.

Below are some drawings of Aboriginal people in the community. A man fixes a fence, a woman writes at a desk and a woman bandages a child’s arm.

Alongside the drawings is information:

Who can get it?

You can get it while you are:

* working on a CDEP community
* on a low wage
* on ABSTUDY or AUSTUDY

How much do you get?

* That depends on how much you earn or – if you are married – how much you both earn.
* It also depends on how many kids you have … and how old they are …

Things can change!

* Might be you got more kids in your care now!
* Might be you move to a CDEP community now!

So if you tried before and couldn’t get FAS – TRY AGAIN!

You do not get FAS Top-Up Money if you or your partner are on a pension or benefit – the money is already included in the cheque!!

Page 5

Panel 1

Janie’s family are cooking outside their home. A ute pulls up with the other family from the grocery store.

‘Wanna come fishing?’ Gertie, the mother of the other family, asks.

‘Come on kids!’ Janie says.

Panel 2

The fathers of the 2 families speak to each other at the car window.

‘When you going back Jimmy?’ the father from Janie’s family asks.

‘Tomorrow night!’ the other father, Jimmy, replies.

‘Just in time!! Fitzroy Express playing tonight. Me and Janie going. See you there!’ says the father from Janie’s family.

Panel 3

The families ride in the back of the ute as it drives along a road.

Page 6

Panel 1

The family stands by a river.

‘I’ll pick you up later!’ someone calls out from the ute, waving.

Panel 2

The families are down by the river.

‘You kids stay with me,’ the grandmother says to the smaller children.

‘Yeah don’t follow us! We want to catch fish not frighten them away!’ Janie says, walking off with Gertie and the older children.

Panel 3

Gertie and Janie sit by the river, fishing.

‘This FAS top-up money Janie – helps you with the kids?’ Gertie asks.

‘Helps a lot, Gertie! With kids’ lunch money for school … with tucker … Your community is CDEP. You can get top-up money too!’ Janie replies.

Page 7

Panel 1

‘Come with me to see Vic, the Social Security Agent!’ Janie says.

Panel 2

Another day, Janie and Gertie approach a building along with a few of their children. They’re going to see the Social Security Agent, Vic.

The drawing says, ‘Janie takes Gertie to see the Social Security Agent…’

Inside, they sit with Vic. ‘You just got to fill in this form! But first –’ Vic begins, showing Gertie some papers.

Panel 3

Vic holds up a tax form.

‘If you got this tax assessment form, it helps you get that top-up money fast!!’ Vic says.

Page 8

Panel 1

‘I haven’t got that!’ Gertie says to Vic.

‘You still can get FAS – Just takes a bit longer! Ask your book-keeper to write down how much money you and your husband got last year! Then I will give it to the Social Security Aboriginal Liaison Officer!’ Vic says.

Panel 2

Gertie and Janie walk outside with the kids.

‘Thanks Janie – Now I can buy good tucker to grow up my kids big and strong!’ Gertie says.

At the bottom of the panel is information:

If you need help to apply for FAS top-up money – talk to the Social Security Agent or the Aboriginal Liaison Officer or – ring your regional Social Security Office (D.S.S.) Reverse Charges!

Page 9

Panel 1

The title ‘Money for kids’ is repeated.

There is a drawing of an Aboriginal community. People stand beside a track. Cars drive along it.

‘Hi Aunty Helen!’ Mary calls out from a truck full of passengers.

‘Hello Mary, how’s this mob?’ Aunty Helen waves from beside the truck.

‘Good!’ Mary calls back.

Panel 2

‘See yas at the football!’ Aunty Helen calls out.

Panel 3

Inside a home, a family is doing different activities. Joe sits on the floor painting. A child is eating at a table.

Mary and Aunty Helen enter. ‘Hello Joe. Good painting!’ Mary says.

‘Yeah, get some tucker!’ Joe says.

Page 10

Panel 1

Mary sits at the table eating and drinking a hot drink with Aunty Helen.

‘What’s these new clothes ya wearing Mary?’ Aunty Helen asks.

‘This my new job trainee health worker!’ Mary says.

‘True!’ Aunty Helen responds.

Panel 2

Joe holds a football and talks to some of the children. ‘Hey let’s get a bit of practice then we’ll clean this mob up!’ he says.

‘Sure, come on Rita!’ one child says to another.

‘O.K!’ Rita says.

Panel 3

Watching Joe and the children play football are Mary and Aunty Helen.

‘So what ya job like Mary?’ Aunty Helen asks.

‘Good talkin to people. I like it, no more sit down money for us!’ Mary responds.

Page 11

Panel 1

Aunty Helen and Mary do the dishes in the kitchen.

‘Do ya get this new thing then – extra money for kids?’ Aunty Helen asks.

‘Oh Family Allowance!’ Mary says.

‘No, it’s a top up on Family Allowance!’ Aunty Helen says. ‘If ya workin’ ya get it!’

Panel 2

‘What’s it called again Helen?’ Mary asks.

‘Something like Family Allowance Supplement. Sort of extra money for kids!’ Aunty Helen answers.

Beside the drawing is information:

You can get Family Allowance Supplement if you are:

* On a low wage
* On ABSTUDY or AUSTUDY

If you have kids living with you then you get top-up money to help you look after those kids.

You get more money for each kid.

Ask at Social Security!

Panel 3

‘Never heard of that one!’ Mary says to Aunty Helen.

Joe and the children comeback inside.

‘Come on ya mob you’ll miss the game!’ one child says.

‘Parrpe!’ says another.

Page 12

Panel 1

The drawing says, ‘At the game…’

At the football game, Mary and Helen sit ready to watch. Joe, in uniform, walks out onto the oval.

‘Marre lhaye,’ Helen says to Joe.

‘Good luck Joe,’ Mary adds.

Panel 2

The players play the game. Joe goes in for a tackle.

These is a speech bubble from one of the players that says, ‘Tweet!’.

Panel 3

The game continues.

Page 13

Panel 1

After the game, a few spectators celebrate.

‘We won!’ one says.

‘Yeah winners!’ another says.

‘Great game!’ a third chimes in.

Panel 2

The drawings says, ‘Later after the game…’

Helen and Mary watch everyone celebrating the game.

‘Ya know this money for kids business, how much do I get?’ Mary asks.

‘Depends on how much you make?’ Helen explains.

Panel 3

‘Ya gotta fill in this big form! You got three kids – you might get $220 for 2 weeks, maybe more!’ Helen says.

Page 14

Panel 1

Mary and Helen continue their conversation.

‘Money for kids, eh? For tucker an clothes. I can do with that!’ Mary says.

‘Since I applied for it I been getting $45 a fortnight!’ Helen says.

Panel 2

The crowd heads to the cars to drive home.

‘And that’s on top of Family Allowance. Comes in the same cheque an’ all!’ Helen continues.

‘Wenhe Ianhe?’ Joe asks the women.

Panel 3

The family drives home in a car which says, ‘Brrrr’ next to it.

Page 15

Panel 1

The drawing says, ‘Next day…’

The next day, Helen and Mary are approaching a DSS office.

‘Don’t like this place. Shouldn’t come here if I’m working!’ Mary says.

‘Social security pay this money to people who work. That’s the idea. Don’t worry, I’ll help you,’ Helen says. ‘Work’ is in bold for emphasis.

Panel 2

Mary holds out an envelope to Helen. ‘They sent me this a while ago Helen!’ she says.

‘Should open it up Mary. Should have just a little look. It might be important!’ Helen says.

Panel 3

Helen and Mary sit inside the DSS office at a desk. ‘Ok this is the form. Now when was Rita born?’ Helen asks.

‘November 10 years ago!’ Mary replies.

The women walk out of the office. A clock shows a bit more than an hour has passed.

‘Glad to get out of there,’ one says.

‘Let’s buy some tucker now!’ the other responds.

Page 16

Panel 1

The drawing says, ‘That night…’

That night the family sits around a fire. Mary helps Joe get things out of the back of a car.

‘I reckon we’ll win the footy cup next year!’ she says.

‘You can try Mary … ha ha ha ha ha!’ Joe responds.

Panel 2

Mary is shown with a thought bubble. ‘When I get that kids money I’ll buy Rita a new dress!’, she thinks.

The family says goodbye. ‘Bye Aunt Helen!’ Rita says.

‘Bye Rita!’ Helen replies.

Panel 3

Helen watches Mary’s family drive away.

‘Anme aretyenenge,’ someone calls out.

‘Good bye!’ another yells.

‘See yas!’ the family in the car call out.

The drawing says, ‘End’.

Inside back cover

The inside back cover has one of the drawings from the comic, of the football team playing the game.

Below, it has publishing information.

Streetwize

Youth Rights Comics is a Redfern Legal Centre Publishing Ltd. project.

This comic is funded by the Department of Social Security.

The purpose of this comic is to provide information on Family Allowance Supplement in an accessible and easy to read format.

Cartoonists: Prue Borthwick, Ross Carnsew, Frank McLeod

Editor/Writer: Victoria Smith

Aboriginal consultant/Writer: Kathy Kum-Sing

Publishing Manager: Kate Blair

Co-ordinator: Jeremy Campbell

Distribution: Sara Knuckey,

The Streetwize Project Committee: Penny Harrington (Disability Rights), Norie Neumark (UTS), Rick Mohr (Evaluation), Helen Whittey (Legal Aid Commission), Sharon Laura (Media), Lyn Stoker (Health), Rob Oerlemans (Youth & the Law Project)

Copyright and reproduction: Non-profit community groups may use parts of Streetwize as long as original meaning is retained and proper credit given to Streetwize Comics. All other organizations should obtain permission from Streetwize Comics, 3 Queen St., Glebe. 2037.

Phone: (02) 552 3499

Printed by Craft Printing Industries Pty. Ltd. Enfield. NSW 2136.

ISSN 0815-0486

B91/20855(D)

Back cover

The back cover shows an Aboriginal family standing on a track in the community. The mother holds a form.

An overlay says ‘A Streetwize Comics production!’