

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Medical Research



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THE EDUCATION STATE – EXCELLENCE IN EVERY CLASSROOM

The Allan Labor Government is building on its record investment in education – making sure all Victorian students get the best education with the launch of *The Education State – Excellence in Every Classroom*.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the government’s plan to deliver excellence in every classroom so every child can get a world-class education.

This builds on the strong foundations of statewide school infrastructure, investing more than \$16.9 billion for new and upgraded school gyms, ovals, playgrounds and open spaces.

Our nation leading \$600 million senior secondary, mental health, and wellbeing programs and our \$1.6 billion Disability Inclusion reform help Victorian schools deliver an inclusive education experience for every student with additional needs.

The Education State – Excellence in Every Classroom sets out five priorities for Victoria’s education system, which has been developed following consultation with students, teachers, school leaders, and communities.

Supporting *The Education State – Excellence in Every Classroom* are five key priorities to guide Victorian education:

- **Excellence in teaching and learning** - ensuring our dedicated and skilled teachers have the resources and support they need so that every student can master the basics at school, as well as build knowledge across all areas of the curriculum.
- **Every student matters** - supporting every student to feel welcome at school, not only to learn but also to belong, by continuing our nation-leading investments in wellbeing, mental health, and disability.
- **Lift secondary school student engagement and achievement** - reshaping the secondary school experience – including a greater focus in years 7-9 – to meet the needs of today’s learners and support engagement.
- **Expand, support and recognise our school workforce** - investing in our hardworking teachers, principals and education support staff by reducing the administrative burden, growing the workforce and retaining our staff.
- **Schools at the centre of communities** - connecting schools with the community better by continuing to build kindergartens on school sites, strengthening transitions and making drop-off easier for families.

Since the launch of the Education State ten years ago, the Labor Government has invested an additional \$35 billion in Victorian students, teachers and school communities, helping us lead the nation in NAPLAN results, student attendance and senior secondary pathways while investing in modern school infrastructure in local communities.

In addition, the Labor Government is also embedding explicit teaching of systematic synthetic phonics as part of the reading programs in every classroom – this is backed by the most up-to-date national and international evidence and will ensure no child is left behind.

To ensure our teachers have the support they need, the Government is investing \$36.9 million to help ease the workload of Victorian teachers, so they can focus on teaching.

The Labor Government continues to lead the nation in education investment – ensuring every student has the resources and facilities they need to succeed in the Education State.

For further information visit vic.gov.au/education-state.

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Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Ben Carroll

“Victoria is the Education State because of our record investment in education – which is delivering the new schools and nation leading reforms in senior secondary, disability and mental health and wellbeing.”

“The Education State – Excellence in Every Classroom will build on these strong foundations to support our dedicated teachers, school leaders and staff to make Victoria a leader in international best practices for teaching and learning.”

“We want every Victorian student to have the knowledge, skills and capabilities they need to thrive at school and into their adult lives and this will help us deliver it.”