

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for WorkSafe and TAC



Friday, 3 January 2025

MORE VICTORIAN STUDENTS TO ENJOY LEARNING OUTDOORS

More schools across Victoria have been able to make the most of their outdoor areas and get students learning outside more often thanks to investment from the Allan Labor Government.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the School Shade Sails Fund program had reached a milestone of more than 1,200 projects rolled out across the state.

All government schools and low-fee non-government schools have been eligible to apply for a grant up to \$25,000 per campus. A total of 1,259 projects are now complete, providing new outdoor learning areas for thousands of students.

The grants program began in 2021 to fund new shade sails over outdoor learning spaces to make them more comfortable and sun-safe for more than 457,000 students.

They also help in covering small food gardens tended to by students and are an open space for reading and yarnning circles.

The Labor Government has invested almost \$17 billion over the past decade to build new schools and deliver more than 2,000 school upgrades – supporting more than 26,000 jobs in construction and associated industries.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Ben Carroll

“We want our schools to make the most of their outdoor learning spaces and enjoy the sunshine. These shades provide each school with the opportunity to take the classroom outside.”

“Learning doesn’t just happen inside a classroom – we want our students to be able to love learning no matter where they are.”