

Victorian Budget

15|16

Department of
Education and Training
Budget Highlights



The Victorian Government is transforming Victoria into the Education State

Education is the biggest investment the Government will ever make in each of us – in every child in day-care, in kinder, in school, in every teenager and adult at TAFE or university.

The 2015–16 Budget delivers close to \$4 billion over four years in additional funding, across family and early childhood services, school education, higher education and Victoria's training system, to be invested where it can have the greatest impact.

Family and Early Childhood Services

As our population grows, demand is increasing for our early years services – especially in fast-growing suburbs. The early years are a critical phase in a child's development, and quality education and care are vital to giving our children the best start in life. Universal early childhood services are an important platform to provide early support for vulnerable families and children.

We are grateful to the early years sector and local government for working with us to achieve Commonwealth funding certainty for the next two years. But we are extremely disappointed that the Commonwealth funding commitment is time limited and we will continue to strongly urge the Commonwealth to provide ongoing funding for this vital stage in our children's learning and development. The Victorian Government is urgently seeking further detail on the Commonwealth announcement and will work to provide clarity regarding 2016 funding arrangements for the sector as soon as possible, including support for the introduction of new educator-to-child ratios.

The 2015–16 Budget provides \$59 million as the first phase of our vision for early years learning.

Building and upgrading kinders and children's centres

Education starts well before Prep and quality education demands quality facilities. The Budget provides \$50 million over four years for building and upgrading kinders and children's centres.

Thousands of families across the state will benefit from state-of-the-art facilities delivered through major and minor building projects, including:

- multi-service children's hubs built in the fastest-growing parts of the state, including Doreen, Altona, Sebastopol in Ballarat and Highton in Geelong;
- new early-learning centres built to provide three-year-old and four-year-old kinder programs, alongside health and support services for thousands of young families; and
- extensions and upgrades to existing children's centres to meet growing demand.

A priority for the capital grants will be those communities most in need, including areas experiencing rapid population growth and those with high levels of disadvantage.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

Young children with a disability or developmental delay will receive specialist, tailored support in the years before school thanks to a \$9 million investment over four years. Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) are proven to make a very real difference to children with a disability or developmental delay.

By acting early and targeting support to each child's individual needs, Victoria's ECIS program sets up kids to move smoothly into school. This funding will ensure these children are given every chance to reach their potential.

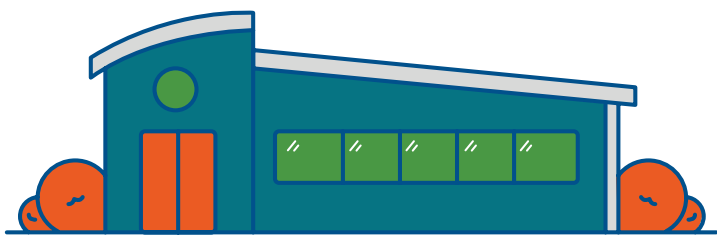
School Education

The 2015–16 Budget is the biggest school education budget on record, providing an injection of \$3.5 billion. This funding reconfirms the Government's commitment to the Gonski Agreement, which aims to improve student outcomes, and is a significant step towards creating the Education State.

Building the Education State through capital investment

The transformation of Victoria into the Education State sees a \$730 million investment going into school infrastructure. Under an extensive and revitalised school building program, scores of Victorian schools will be renovated, refurbished, maintained and rebuilt. New schools will be constructed and brand-new relocatable classrooms will be delivered to meet demand at growing schools.





New schools

Population growth in some suburban and regional areas has outstripped local services and schools. The Budget provides \$40 million to purchase land for future schools and \$111 million to deliver 10 new schools in some of our fastest growing areas. Sixty-seven schools will share in \$325 million for upgrades and renovations.

New classrooms

In some areas, schools are bursting at the seams and have nowhere to teach their new students. The Budget provides \$35 million for more than 120 new relocatable classrooms to meet that demand.

Tech Schools

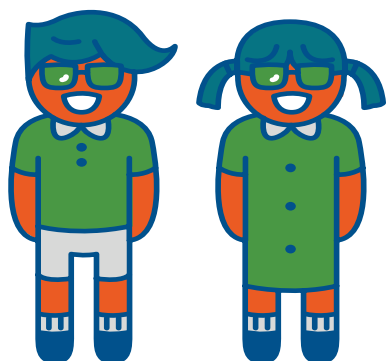
The Victorian Government wants to see school students learn the skills they need to kick-start their careers. The Budget provides \$8 million in planning works for 10 new Tech Schools across the state, which will be open to students from Years 7 to 12.

Asbestos

The Budget provides \$42 million as part of an extensive \$100 million asbestos-removal program. This program is the first phase in the Government's commitment to remove asbestos from all government school buildings.

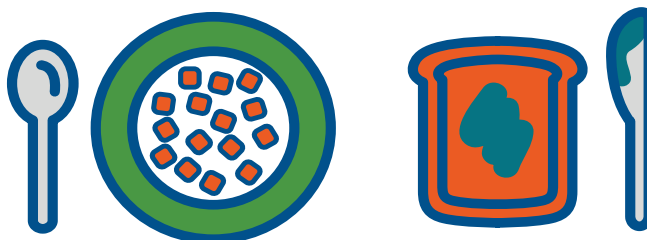
Opportunity for all

The Budget includes an initial \$180 million package of initiatives to break down barriers of disadvantage and to ensure more schools have access to education and wellbeing programs.



Glasses for Kids

In a Victorian first, Prep to Year 3 students in 250 disadvantaged schools will be given eye tests, and around 10,000 children will receive free glasses. A partnership with One Sight (OPSM), this \$480,000 commitment ensures that vision problems are identified and treated early, before they can affect a child's education.



Breakfast Clubs

One in seven kids arrives at school without having eaten breakfast, making it difficult to concentrate and be at their best. More than 25,000 students from disadvantaged schools will be provided with free breakfast under the \$13.7 million Breakfast Clubs initiative, in partnership with Foodbank.



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist outside the classroom. The \$148.3 million Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will help more than 200,000 disadvantaged families with children in government, independent and Catholic schools pay for these essential school activities.



Affordable School Uniforms Program

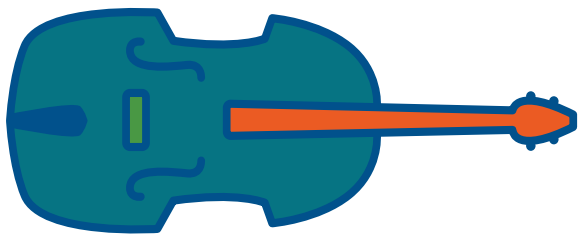
The Victorian Government will help struggling families to meet the costs of their children's education, and ensure they can fully participate in school. The State Schools' Relief (SSR) free uniforms, shoes, stationery and books program has been expanded by \$15.65 million, and will now assist an extra 25,000 students each year.

Safe Schools Coalition

The Budget also provides \$1.04 million to increase existing funding to Safe Schools Coalition Victoria to expand its program into every Victorian government secondary school, supporting same-sex attracted and gender diverse students, creating inclusive environments for all.

Aiming for excellence

In another two firsts for Victorian education, the Budget will provide \$3.6 million for initiatives to bring out the best in our students.



Music in Schools

In partnership with Musical Futures Australia, \$2 million will go towards establishing quality music programs in all government schools by 2018. This will also fund a grants program for students in government and low-fee independent schools to buy musical instruments.



Mentoring

High-achieving tertiary students are set to mentor secondary students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The 200 student mentors will receive scholarships of \$3000 towards their study costs. This \$1.6 million program will also cover grants to expand existing mentoring programs run by community organisations.

Training and Skills

The transformation of Victoria into the Education State sees a \$350 million funding injection supporting TAFEs to provide more opportunities for Victorians to develop the skills they need to get a job. This budget delivers key election commitments, including additional support for vulnerable young people, a scholarship fund for Victoria's best and brightest and a new Skills Commissioner role to better align training delivery with the skills needs of Victorian industries.

TAFE Rescue Fund

The Budget provides the remaining \$300 million from the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund, including \$100 million in funding for capital projects and a further \$200 million over four years supporting TAFEs to deliver additional services that benefit the community.

State Government contributions to public TAFEs fell from \$733 million in 2011 to \$468 million in 2014. This new funding will help Victoria's TAFEs strengthen their operations by re-opening campuses, investing in new facilities and supporting institutes to deliver more training that leads to jobs.



Skills Commissioner

The Budget provides \$8 million to establish and support the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner, which will focus on better meeting the skills needs of the Victorian economy. One of the first tasks of the new Commissioner will be to review Victoria's industry engagement model, in consultation with stakeholders.

Local Learning and Employment Networks

The Budget provides \$32 million for Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) to continue their work in supporting young people to transition from school into work and from unemployment into jobs or further training. The funding provided in the Budget will give LLENs the certainty they need to continue their vital work across Victoria.



Sir John Monash Victorian Scholarship

As part of the Budget, the Victorian Government will provide \$2 million to the General Sir John Monash Foundation to offer a new scholarship category to support Victoria's best and brightest. The new Sir John Monash Victorian Scholarship will provide up to \$180,000 per student to pursue post-graduate study abroad for up to three years and is open to all disciplines.



Apprentice Vehicle Registration

Thousands of trade apprentices who rely on their vehicle to do their job each day will be better off under the Government's discount registration scheme. Under the scheme, eligible apprentice tradies will be able to apply for a 50 per cent discount on their vehicle registration fee, resulting in a saving of hundreds of dollars per year for the typical light-vehicle registered in Melbourne.



International Student Welfare Grants

This new \$4 million Victorian Government grants scheme will help international students who are facing welfare issues including social isolation, consumer affairs, housing and issues with the quality of education. From July 2015 grants of up to \$50,000 will be available to organisations supporting international students, including representative student bodies. This budget initiative will provide a better experience for students, boosting Victoria's attractiveness to international students and supporting our single largest export industry.

Initiatives already underway

Fast-tracked TAFE Rescue Funding

Earlier this year, the Government fast-tracked \$20 million from the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund to shore up the finances of seven struggling TAFE institutes hardest hit by funding cuts.

Back to Work Fund

The \$50 million Back to Work Fund will help TAFEs to develop partnerships with companies in the six growth sectors of the economy identified by the Government's Back to Work Plan, to create 100,000 jobs.

The fund will offer one-off grants for TAFEs to develop and expand courses that align with the needs of local employers, including those eligible for the Back to Work Scheme.

Applications for funding closed last month, and successful grants will be announced in coming weeks.

Looking ahead

This Budget lays the groundwork to revitalise Victoria's education system and restore opportunities for Victorians. The Government is working on a range of new initiatives to support Victoria's transformation into the Education State.

Over the coming months, this Government will work with the community to co-design a long-term reform agenda to make Victoria the Education State.

A review will also be undertaken into the School Resourcing Package to examine how School Education funds are allocated and used.

We will also further develop Maternal and Child Health services as a foundation for children's development and early intervention in the first years of life.

The independent VET Funding Review is underway and will deliver a final report this year that will advise the Government on a more sustainable funding model to support Victoria's economy for the long term.

The Government has also ordered a Review of Quality Assurance in Victoria's VET system to help stamp out bad practices and restore student and employer confidence in the training system.