

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 29 September 2020

INGRID STITT JOINS THE MINISTRY

Growing up in the United Kingdom and arriving in Melbourne aged eight, one of the first things that struck Ingrid Stitt was the unique opportunities Australia afforded – that with a good, steady and safe job, you could build a life for yourself and your family.

As we set about getting more Victorians safely back to work, and making sure that we continue to support businesses and workers as we do, Member for Western Metropolitan Region Ingrid Stitt will bring that commitment and experience as our state's new Minister for Workplace Safety.

In this role, Ms Stitt will continue our Government's commitment to making our workplaces safer and ensuring every worker makes it home to their loved ones.

Reflecting her passion for education as the great leveller, she will also take on the role of Minister for Early Childhood, overseeing the rollout of three-year-old kinder across the state.

The work of rebuilding our mental health system matters more than ever. It's why the Deputy Premier James Merlino will take the lead in one of the Government's signature reforms as Minister for Mental Health, in addition to his responsibilities in Education.

The findings of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System will be delivered early next year. We understand the profound importance of getting this reform right – and what it will mean for millions of Victorians.

The Deputy Premier will lead this work, delivering each and every one of the Commission's recommendations as we overhaul a broken system – and save lives.

Our creative sector has been hard hit by the pandemic, but its revival will be a key part of our state's economic recovery. As Minister for Creative Industries, Danny Pearson's great drive and energy will ensure that our reputation as the nation's cultural capital is not only maintained – but stronger than ever.

Gayle Tierney will bring her extensive parliamentary experience and knowledge, serving in the role of Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

These changes see the Andrews Labor Government well placed to continue delivering our key election commitments and an ambitious agenda of reform.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"I know Ingrid Stitt will be an outstanding contributor to our Cabinet, bringing her dedication to delivering safer workplaces and overseeing those critical early years for our youngest Victorians."

"Rebuilding our mental health system is one of our most important priorities. It's why I've asked Deputy Premier James Merlino to take charge of this reform and deliver on every one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission."

"Our creative sector is a big part of what makes Victoria so special – and Danny Pearson will do a terrific job leading its recovery and reinvention after tough times."

"Gayle Tierney is one of our most experienced upper house members. Together with Jaclyn Symes, she'll play a vital role in delivering our reform agenda as part of our Legislative Council leadership team."