

# Media Release

**The Hon James Merlino MP**

Deputy Premier

Minister for the Coordination of Education and Training – COVID-19

Minister for Education

Minister for Mental Health



Monday, 5 October 2020

## SIX SCHOOLS JOIN FORCES IN YARRA VALLEY EDUCATION PLAN

More schools across the Yarra Valley and surrounds will come together to give students across the region a better education under the expansion of the Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced that the education plan had been expanded to include all secondary schools within the Lilydale and Yarra Valley areas.

The Plan is an expansion of a 2017 partnership between Lilydale High School, Lilydale Heights College and Upper Yarra Secondary College.

Healesville High School, Mooroolbark College and Yarra Hills Secondary College are the new schools to join the plan.

It will see all six schools work together on the delivery of high-quality secondary education for students via the shared use of ideas and facilities, such as specialised classrooms and resources.

Students will be encouraged to develop their own voice and identity as leaders, with a strong focus on job and education pathways with the community and local industry.

The plan has so far seen major upgrades of buildings and facilities at Lilydale Heights College, Lilydale High School and Upper Yarra Secondary College.

These infrastructure projects have modernised learning facilities at these three schools and will enable the six schools to share the new resources and educational opportunities they create.

Prior to joining the plan, Healesville High School, Mooroolbark College and Yarra Hills Secondary College received funding for infrastructure projects.

A Collaborative Indigenous Strategy will also be delivered as part of the plan to improve outcomes for indigenous students across the area.

The Victorian Government has invested \$7.2 billion to build 100 new schools and deliver more than 1,460 school upgrades, while supporting more than 7,500 construction jobs for Victorians.

The Victorian Government is building the Education State so that every student can access a great local school and get a quality education.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

*"This education plan will see secondary schools in the Yarra Valley and Lilydale work together to deliver the very best education outcomes for students."*

*"We are investing in the future of our students by building new schools, modernising classrooms and creating first class learning opportunities."*

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