

# Media Release

**The Hon James Merlino MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Mental Health



Wednesday, 2 December 2020

## SUPPORTING SMALL-SCALE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

Victorian schools will receive a funding boost to deliver small but important upgrades thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's \$70 million Minor Capital Works Fund.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced 328 schools will receive funding to fast-track priority projects, supporting local jobs through Victoria's economic recovery.

Last month, the Labor Government invested more than \$3 billion in school upgrades through the *Victorian Budget 2020/21*.

While much of this funding went towards new schools and major upgrades to existing schools, this fund is delivering smaller projects that also make a big difference to local schools. Projects will commence from early 2021.

The funded projects include:

- 58 projects to upgrade existing ovals and other sporting facilities
- 58 projects to provide new or upgrade existing playgrounds or sensory play spaces
- 43 projects to refurbish school toilet facilities to improve amenity, cleanliness and hygiene
- 24 projects to upgrade and refurbish roofs and other external building works
- 30 upgrades to fences, and;
- 15 projects to provide greater shade and outdoor covered areas at schools

Victoria's school building boom is the biggest in the country. More importantly, it'll mean our kids have the classrooms – and the bright futures – they deserve.

In the past five years, the Labor Government has invested more than \$9 billion in more than 1,600 school upgrades – creating more than 10,000 construction jobs – and is now ahead of schedule of its commitment to open 100 new schools by 2026, with 48 new schools opening between 2019 and 2022.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

*"Every student should have a great school, no matter where they live. That's why we're investing in hundreds of small but important projects that will make a big difference for schools and create jobs for Victorians."*

*"Whether it is upgrading toilets or building a new fence – this is all about making sure our students have the facilities they need."*