

# Media Release

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



Wednesday, 13 January 2021

## **MORE STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS**

The School Breakfast Clubs program has reached a milestone with 1,000 schools now participating across Victoria, allowing more students to learn with a full stomach and get the most out of school.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced 1,000 schools will be a part of the School Breakfast Clubs program in 2021, which has so far served more than 15 million nutritious meals to students.

The program, delivered in partnership with Foodbank Victoria, provides free breakfasts for kids at participating Victorian schools since it was established by the Andrews Labor Government in 2016.

The Labor Government has invested \$58 million to expand the program by doubling the number of participating schools from 500 to 1000, providing lunches and school holiday supplies to those most in need and will begin delivering cooking classes for parents and children at 100 schools in 2021.

Despite the transition to remote and flexible learning in Term 2 and 3 2020, more than 2.5 million meals were delivered to students ensuring no student went hungry.

In Term 4, a further 1.2 million meals were provided to students, along with over 6,700 school holiday packs to support students and their families over the summer holidays.

The program is a part of the Labor Government's ongoing work to ensure all students can fully participate in their learning at school and build happy and healthy lives.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino**

*"We know that kids can't learn properly on an empty stomach – that's why we expanded School Breakfast Clubs program to 1,000 schools to help the students who need it most."*

*"The School Breakfast Clubs program has gone from strength to strength making sure more students have access to healthy meals no matter what their background or circumstance."*

### **Quotes attributable to Foodbank Victoria CEO Dave McNamara**

*"Since 2016, Foodbank Victoria has been proud to deliver this vital program providing healthy meals to kids who might otherwise go without, giving them a happy, healthy start to the day."*

*"The School Breakfast Clubs program provides more than just nutritious food – it improves concentration, builds social skills, and gives kids a better chance to create a bright future for themselves through learning."*