

# Media Release

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



Thursday, 1 April 2021

## NEW GYM AND HOPE CENTRE FOR HEATHMONT STUDENTS

Students in Heathmont now have more first-class facilities at their school, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Education James Merlino and Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor today opened \$5.5 million worth of upgrades at Heathmont College, comprising a new gym and a refurbished HOPE Centre.

The competition-grade basketball and netball gym is complete with teaching space, change rooms, toilets and storage.

The HOPE centre provides crucial student wellbeing and counselling services and supports a vibrant, motivated and connected learning community.

Heathmont College is also leading the way in its participation in an initiative to retrain out-of-field Years 7-10 teachers in Victorian government schools in maths and science.

The Department of Education and Training has engaged Deakin University to deliver the Secondary Mathematics and Science Initiative. Under the initiative, four Heathmont College teachers have already had three virtual learning days to boost their skills in teaching STEM subjects.

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

*“We’re ensuring local students have the best facilities, our classrooms have the best teachers and every child is given the best chance to succeed.”*

*“Our record investment in school infrastructure is part of our commitment to keep delivering for our hard-working school communities, their students and families.”*

### Quotes attributable to Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor

*“The new gym and refurbished HOPE Centre are a great boost for Heathmont College students and the wider community.”*

*“I’m stoked to have helped secure a further \$2.5 million in the last budget to continue to back this great school in, and provide the first class facilities they deserve.”*