

Media Release

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



Monday, 10 May 2021

MORE SUPPORT TO MAKE SCHOOLS INCLUSIVE FOR ALL STUDENTS

The Andrews Labor Government is helping more schools build inclusive play areas, sensory gardens and outdoor learning areas to support students with disabilities and additional needs.

Acting Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino today announced a further 74 projects across the state will share in over \$12.5 million under Round 6 of the Andrews Labor Government's Inclusive Schools Fund.

Schools to benefit from this round include Swan Hill Primary School, which is receiving \$200,000 to create an inclusive playground including new play equipment and rubber under surfacing, and Elsternwick Primary School, who is receiving \$200,000 for a new indoor inclusive learning space – including new sensory equipment.

Castlemaine Secondary College is receiving \$72,253 for a new outdoor inclusive learning space, including new play equipment and landscaping.

These are some of the many innovative ideas included under the fund, which supports the construction of inclusive playgrounds, as well as indoor and outdoor inclusive learning spaces. This round will fund projects such as accessible wheelchair friendly playground surfaces, quiet musical areas, and sensory zones with a range of tactile surfaces.

The Inclusive Schools Fund is helping government schools better cater for the social and educational needs of all young people, including those with a disability or additional needs. This is the sixth round of funding.

Since the Fund was established by the Labor Government in 2015, more than 300 creative projects to build inclusive learning spaces and inclusive playgrounds have been announced.

The Fund is ensuring that students with disabilities get the same opportunities as other students.

Inclusive education is about ensuring that all students, regardless of disabilities or other differences, are able to fully participate, learn, develop and succeed in Victorian government schools.

More information about these projects is available at schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Acting Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino

"This funding is about giving every child the best chance to meet their potential – regardless of their background or circumstances."

"As we build the Education State, we're continuing to invest in schools to ensure students of all abilities can access a great education regardless of background or educational needs."

"Disability shouldn't be a barrier to learning and achieving – these innovative projects are all about giving our primary schools the infrastructure they need to inspire a passion for learning in all students."