

# Media Release

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



Thursday, 17 June 2021

## TRANSFORMING PRIMARY EDUCATION IN GREATER SHEPPARTON

The Andrews Labor Government has today released the third stage of the Shepparton Education Plan following extensive stakeholder and community engagement on improving outcomes for children in Shepparton.

The *Shepparton Education Plan – Stage Three – Primary Education* focusses on the educational journey of children from Foundation to Year 6. It proposes six desired outcomes, each backed by a series of actions to ensure local children have access to an integrated, effective, and inclusive primary education.

Greater Shepparton's 28 government primary schools are staffed by committed teachers and leaders. Despite their considerable efforts, significant investment and community commitment, the task of delivering equity and excellence to all primary students in Shepparton and Mooroopna remains challenging.

There are many examples of strong practice in our primary schools, however too many of our children have for decades experienced some of the lowest educational, health and wellbeing outcomes in Victoria.

The third stage of the Plan centres on strengthening collaboration with all families to fully participate, develop and succeed in an inclusive, safe and stimulating school environment. It seeks to deliver excellence in teaching and learning and to ensure school readiness, including the transitions from kindergarten into primary school and from Year 6 into secondary school.

Work on the Plan began with a locally based working party of education experts, school and Department of Education and Training leaders established in 2018. The plan's development has had expert oversight from a strategic advisory group overseeing the wider Shepparton Education Plan.

While the development of the new Greater Shepparton Secondary College has the highest profile in the delivery of the Shepparton Education Plan, a high-quality primary experience and readiness for secondary school are known to be critical to setting up children for lifelong learning.

The *Shepparton Education Plan – Stage Three – Primary Education* is the third of four separate stages, including secondary education, primary education and tertiary education and skills that make up the Victorian Government's Shepparton Education Plan.

Lifting education outcomes in Shepparton is the highest priority for the Victorian Government, which is why more than \$140 million has already been invested to make the long-term Shepparton Education Plan – including its capital projects of the new Greater Shepparton Secondary College and the Mooroopna Integrated Early Learning Centre – a reality.

For more information on the *Shepparton Education Plan – Stage Two – Primary Education* visit:  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/educationplansshepparton.aspx>

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

*"We know that transformational change is needed to ensure children in Shepparton get the best possible start in life and this new Primary Education plan will be critical in helping us get there."*

### Quotes attributable to the Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

*"This is a long-term vision and will take careful planning – but we'll get it done for the lasting benefit of the children and young people of Shepparton and Mooroopna."*

**Media contact:** Matthew Dixon 0438 190 148 | [matthew.dixon@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.dixon@minstaff.vic.gov.au)