

Media Release

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



Friday, 18 June 2021

GRANTS OPEN TO HELP SUPPORT INCLUSIVE LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

The Victorian Government is helping more schools support students with disabilities and additional needs by offering grants to build inclusive indoor and outdoor learning spaces as well as accessible playgrounds to ensure that all students can fully participate and succeed in school.

Acting Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino today officially opened Round 7 of the *Inclusive Schools Fund* to help government schools create inclusive spaces that better cater for the social and educational needs of all students.

To date, more than 300 creative projects have been announced since the Fund began in 2015. In Round 6, 74 projects shared in over \$12.5 million of funding which included inclusive wheelchair friendly playground surfaces, quiet musical areas and sensory zones with a range of tactile surfaces.

This year's Budget announced a further \$10 million for the *Inclusive Schools Fund* bringing the Government's total investment in the fund to \$70 million.

Applications for Round 7 of the program open on Friday, 18 June and close at midnight on Friday, 6 August. For more details, go to schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Acting Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino

"We are supporting projects that are making a real difference to students and these include new inclusive playgrounds that cater to a wider range of options for teaching and learning."

"As we build the Education State, we're continuing to invest in schools to ensure students of all abilities can access a great education – no matter their circumstances."