

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



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MORE OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting more schools to establish outside school hours care services, helping more parents and carers to get into the workforce while ensuring their children are cared for.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced 145 school sites will share in almost \$10.7 million to establish a new outside school hours care service at their school from the beginning of 2022.

These schools will receive up to \$75,000 per year over the next three years for their outside school hours care services – helping to establish new services and cover the cost of resources or equipment, setup and administration, facility upgrades, small service viability and transport.

These grants will increase the number of schools providing outside school hours care by 5.8 per cent in Melbourne and 42.9 per cent in regional Victoria.

This is the second round of grants to be awarded under an \$81.7 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2020/21*, supporting the establishment of up to 400 new outside school hours care services at government schools.

The first round allocated \$4.1 million in grants to 53 schools earlier this year, with another two rounds to follow in 2022 and 2023.

By creating more outside school hours care services, the Labor Government is supporting more parents and carers to get back to work, study, training or as Victoria begins to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

“Those two hours after school finishes each day shouldn’t be a barrier for parents or carers getting back into work or study once their children are at school – we’re investing to ensure our kids are cared for when families need it.”

“This support will make an outside school hours facility viable for many of our state’s smaller schools – and it will mean so much to busy working families across the state.”