

# Media Release

**The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP**

Minister for Education

Minister for Women



Thursday, 27 October 2022

## **NEW CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES OFFICIALLY OPEN**

A new learning centre that will give the state's most high-achieving VCE students access to a range of courses to get a head start on their university education is now open, backed by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins today launched the \$27.5 million Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) in South Yarra.

The Chapel Street centre will provide VCE students with courses that are aligned to their skills and interests, contributing to their ATAR. Some courses will also enable students to accrue university credits.

Students will remain enrolled at their government secondary school while participating in courses at CHES, forming part of their VCE program.

Courses will be delivered on-site and virtually, supporting students in regional, rural and remote areas. Year-long programs will be available from the start of 2023.

CHES includes an auditorium, high-technology learning spaces and tertiary standard science and design labs. It also offers professional learning opportunities for Victorian teachers, to support them in meeting the needs of their high-ability students.

In the past eight years, the Labor Government has invested \$12.8 billion in building new schools and more than 1,850 school upgrades, creating around 17,400 jobs in construction and associated industries.

The Government is ahead of schedule in opening 100 new schools by 2026, with 75 new schools opening between 2019 and 2024 – ensuring every student can access a great local school and a quality education no matter where they live.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins**

*"This is such an exciting milestone – with the new Centre for Higher Education Studies in South Yarra to give our most high achieving VCE students access to a range of courses and learning opportunities to get a head start on their university education."*

*"We're ensuring our students have the best spaces to learn, can meet their potential and access a great education."*