

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
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MORE SPECIALIST SCHOOLS TO ACCESS NDIS NAVIGATORS

More students at Victorian government specialist schools will soon have access to more tailored care and wraparound support, thanks to the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the second tranche of the \$21.2 million National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Navigators initiative is now being rolled out, so 35 extra schools can access the fund – more than doubling the number of specialist schools currently on the initiative.

More than 65 schools now have the funding to hire an NDIS Navigator, with every one of the state's 84 specialist schools set to have an Navigator in place by the end of 2025.

NDIS Navigators work in specialist schools and provide direct support to families and carers to help them to navigate the NDIS, including how to access the NDIS, prepare for plan reviews and access the right supports.

It's part of the Labor Government's \$203 million 'Fighting for Students with Disability and their Families' package, which also includes funding for infrastructure and transport for specialist schools.

The investment builds on the \$1.6 billion Disability Inclusion package transforming support for students with a disability in every Victorian Government school and shifting the focus towards what a child can achieve and getting the best out of every student.

These latest initiatives add to \$3 billion the Labor Government has already invested in inclusive education, including upgrades to every single specialist school in the state, more support for students in the classroom and facilities so every child gets the chance to play, learn and grow, no matter their needs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"Every family should have access to the support they need, which is why we're providing more NDIS Navigators to students with disability and additional needs, giving them the resources and support to be their best."

"An inclusive education system means all students should be welcomed, accepted and engaged with so that they can be part of their school community and thrive".

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability Lizzie Blandthorn

"We need to continue to remove barriers for those with disabilities. Having schools be accessible and supportive environments helps children with disabilities and additional needs get on the path to success and really enjoy their time at school".