



The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local
Government

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP
Victorian Minister for Disability

The Hon Bill Shorten MP
Minister for the National Disability
Insurance Scheme
Minister for Government Services

MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIAN GUIDE DOGS CAMPUS GETS EXCITING UPGRADE

The redeveloped Guide Dogs Victoria campus in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Kew is officially opened, providing a world-class active training and education centre of excellence.

The redevelopment has turned the campus into a 'sensory campus', designed to seamlessly integrate people with vision loss, guide dogs and campus employees in a way that will stimulate and heighten the sensory experience.

The project has delivered new guide dog training facilities, including an undercover Dog Training Plaza, for Guide Dogs Victoria's Early Puppy Development Program.

Works also delivered:

- an education centre including multipurpose education space, multisensory play space, male and female bathrooms and one accessible bathroom
- a café, including fit-out
- residential accommodation including nine bedrooms with ensuites, shared kitchen, shared lounge area and five sensory breakout spaces
- sensory garden including children's garden and play area, new footpaths and integrated footpaths
- administration spaces including open plan office space, reception area with lobby, seven meeting rooms, kitchenette and utility space, boardroom, executive office, multipurpose room, male and female bathrooms and one accessible bathroom
- a sunken car park with upgrades to internal roads and driveway, parking for at least 62 cars and workshop/office/storage area
- upgraded water, electrical, communications and fire services at the site on Chandler Highway.

Guide Dogs Victoria will be able to expand client services with the new enhanced surroundings and technology.

The project supported 38 jobs during construction and created 45 ongoing roles.

The \$33.6 million dollar project was funded by Guide Dogs Victoria (\$26.1 million), supported by the Australian Government (\$2.5 million) and Victorian Government (\$5 million).

Quotes attributable to Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King:

"The Kew Guide Dogs Campus redevelopment project is a result of the Australian and Victorian governments working together with Guide Dogs Victoria to provide a centre of excellence to help people access their services."

"The delivery of the Kew Guide Dogs Campus redevelopment will support people living with disability as well as create ongoing jobs and economic growth in eastern Melbourne for years to come."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Government Services and the NDIS, and Federal Member for Maribyrnong Bill Shorten:

"I'm pleased to see the many benefits of this vital redevelopment at the Kew Guide Dogs campus come to life."

"This campus is not just a facility; it is a beacon of what is possible in Australia's journey towards true inclusivity."

"This includes the support of assistance animals such as those here at Guide Dogs Victoria."

"The animals trained here are more than just companions, they are a vital support and deserve to be recognised as such."

"These projects highlight the importance of the Australian and Victorian governments working together with organisations like Guide Dogs Victoria to provide expanded assistance programs for people with disability."

Quotes attributable to Victorian Minister for Disability Lizzie Blandthorn:

"It's fantastic to see work complete and now making an incredible difference in the lives of around 1,200 people with low vision across Victoria."

"The new sensory campus is an achievement that will empower more Victorians with low vision to navigate the world with confidence and independence."

"Guide Dogs Victoria has been a cornerstone of support for people with low vision, and this new campus marks the next chapter in their ongoing commitment to transforming lives."

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