

# Media Release

**The Hon Ben Carroll MP**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Wednesday, 4 February 2026

## RECOVERY AND WELLBEING BOOST FOR BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED SCHOOLS

The Allan Labor Government is standing with school communities affected by January's devastating bushfires.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the schools in areas most impacted by recent bushfires that will share in \$2 million of additional funding to address the immediate mental health and wellbeing needs of students.

The funding will be delivered as a top-up to impacted public schools' existing Schools Mental Health Fund, enabling them to purchase additional evidence-based mental health and wellbeing support.

Schools were identified based on direct bushfire impacts to facilities and communities, including where students and staff have experienced loss of property or disruption.

This will provide impacted public schools with access to increased recovery and wellbeing support, focusing on trauma-informed support as well as disaster, grief and loss programs.

This boost supports the government's Recovery and Resilience Model for schools, an evidence-based framework which includes the core features of routine and safety, health and wellbeing, belonging and connectedness.

New uniforms, books and other educational items can also be replaced through State Schools' Relief. Schools can also apply for additional support through the School Breakfast Club Program.

For a list of schools identified to receive this funding, visit [www.vic.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-bushfire-affected-schools](http://www.vic.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-bushfire-affected-schools).

### Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll

*"We want our students and staff across the state to know we are behind them every step of the way, and help restore a sense of safety and calm to our school communities."*

*"We know the significant damage these fires can bring to our students emotional wellbeing, and we are putting every effort in place to mitigate the trauma and disruption they have caused."*