

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Thursday, 5 March 2026

VICTORIA LEADS THE WAY AS THE EDUCATION STATE

New data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has confirmed Victoria is Australia's Education State.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced that thanks to record investment from the Allan Labor Government, Victorian public schools continue to deliver in key metrics linked to a world-class education: enrolments and retention, workforce growth, and school building infrastructure.

The ABS *Schools Australia: 2025* report reveals Victorian families are choosing a public school education in record numbers, with Victoria recording the highest growth in public school student enrolments over the past decade in Australia.

The report also highlights steady growth in public school teaching staff, showing the Labor's \$1.8 billion investment to grow and support our education workforce is seeing results.

Victoria now has around 14,000 more registered teachers than we did in 2020.

Other key findings show that in 2025, Victoria:

- outpaced all other Australian states and territories - with more than half of all schools built across Australia over the past decade built here.
- was one of only 3 jurisdictions to see enrolment growth in public schools since 2024.
- has the highest increase in enrolments in public schools over the last 10 years.
- saw teaching staff numbers grow well above the national average in our public schools.
- saw the student-to-teaching-staff ratio decrease, which is one of the smallest ratios in the country.
- had an increase in the apparent retention rate across all sectors.

Only Labor is building public schools, classrooms and amenities needed for a high-quality education in some of the state's fastest growing communities.

When they were last in government, the Liberals and Nationals slashed \$1 billion from the education budget, allowing public schools to crumble and decay.

In stark contrast, Labor has made a record \$18.5 billion investment in our public schools.

Our record investment has seen 121 new public schools delivered and more than 2,300 school upgrades.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"Once again, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics schools report shows quite clearly that Victoria is the nation's Education State."

"We know Victorian public schools deliver a world-class education. This data cements Victoria's position as a leader in public education – with high enrolment growth, a strong and growing teacher workforce, and more new schools than any other state or territory."

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