

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Thursday, 21 May 2026

SMALL SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS GET A BIG BUDGET BOOST

Every student deserves a world-class education, close to home.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the Allan Labor Government is investing in more school upgrades across the state.

Labor has built more than half of all new schools constructed across Australia right here in Victoria, while delivering over 2,400 upgrades to existing schools.

Now, applications are open for the Capital Works Fund – small-scale projects that upgrade our public schools.

Practical works like roof repairs, playground and oval upgrades, bike shelters and covered walkways keep our public schools modern and up to date.

This year's Budget delivers a \$25.4 million investment in small-scale projects at schools, with \$10.6 million already allocated to 24 schools across Victoria.

Schools can apply for one of three funding streams:

- Up to \$150,000 for small-scale projects
- Up to \$350,000 for student inclusion projects
- Up to \$600,000 for larger-scale projects

The inclusion stream makes schools more accessible for students with disability, like building an inclusive playground.

Since 2024, the Labor Government has supported 146 schools through the Capital Works Fund.

Labor has delivered 121 new schools, because we always invest in our children's future.

When Jess Wilson's Liberals were last in power, they cut \$1 billion from education.

Do the Liberals and Nationals support upgrades for our public schools – or will they cut them?

Applications are open until 12 June 2026.

For more information and to apply, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/capital-works-fund

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"Whether a school is large or small, these upgrades make a big difference."

"Families can always rely on Labor to make sure their children get a world-class public education, close to home."