

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education



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\$5 MILLION UPGRADE BEGINS AT ASHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Minister for Education James Merlino and Federal Member for Chisholm Anna Burke today helped turn the first sod in the next stage of a \$5 million upgrade at Ashwood High School.

The Andrews Labor Government gave Ashwood High School a funding boost in the *2014-15 Victorian Budget* to build a new Year 9 learning centre, refurbish teaching spaces and demolish a building.

The new facilities will support the school's collaborative learning and interdisciplinary education model, and also include a state of the art sporting facility and outdoor amphitheatre, with construction expected to be complete by early 2017.

Ashwood High School has experienced an increase in student numbers this year and has implemented a new school name. This change, along with the new facilities, uniform and school motto demonstrates the strong commitment of the school community to its students.

The Labor Government is investing billions of dollars to make Victoria the Education State – with almost \$4 billion over four years representing the single biggest boost to education funding in Victoria's history.

The Budget provided \$344 million to renovate, refurbish or rebuild 83 schools. It will fund the first stage of an extensive asbestos-removal program so that families can be assured their children are being educated in safe schools.

Quotes attributable to Education Minister James Merlino

"The Education State is about taking our education system from good to great by fixing our schools, early learning facilities and skills centres, and building the right infrastructure to support our kids to thrive – because good infrastructure makes a great place to learn."

"The Andrews Labor Government is delivering the Education State, and this means providing first-class infrastructure for our schools, teachers, principals and students."