

GETTING THINGS DONE

Victorian Budget 18/19



The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

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Giving every child the chance to succeed

All Victorian students will be supported to get a great education, stay in school and learn the skills they need for the future.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* invests \$26 million to enhance vocational education in schools and \$50 million to deliver up to 1,700 *Head Start Apprenticeships and Traineeships* at 100 secondary schools, ensuring students can finish high school with an apprenticeship or traineeship qualification, ready to work in a high demand or high growth industry.

To continue to improve student performance and recruit and train the very best teachers and principals, the Budget also invests \$1.55 billion to deliver a package of education measures including:

- \$22.1 million for workshops and teaching tools to improve literacy and numeracy teaching, including giving every child starting prep a free 'prep bag' which now includes books to keep and read at home
- \$32.9 million to fund 200 additional Primary Maths and Science Specialists
- \$44 million to cut the number of students dropping out of school with the state-wide rollout of the Navigator program
- \$1 million for schools to purchase musical instruments and music professional development for teachers
- \$9.8 million to contribute to the cost of swimming and water safety education programs
- \$11.3 million to continue funding the Young Leaders to China Program
- \$4.4 million to ensure schools have access to the very best principals, through a new program to prepare and assess those aspiring to be principals.

The Budget also fully acquits Victoria's obligations for the final year of the original Gonski agreement.

It sets Victoria on a path to become a national leader in inclusive education, with \$232.8 million for education initiatives for students with disability or additional learning needs, ensuring all children, wherever they go to school, get the individual attention they deserve. This is on top of an additional \$55.6 million to plan and upgrade 15 special schools.

This includes scholarships for teachers to undertake postgraduate courses in special education, and an extension of the *Outside School Hours Care* demonstration program, which provides after school and holiday programs to students with a disability.

There is also additional support for students with language and learning disabilities, student transport, and equipment grants to ensure schools are inclusive for all children.

The Budget overhauls secondary school career education, investing \$109 million so students can get expert advice earlier, helping them make the right career choices to get the job they want.

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Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

“Every child, no matter where they live or their circumstance, deserves individual attention and support to succeed at school and that’s exactly what this Budget delivers.”

“We want kids learning a trade to be able to get a good job, quickly. Head Start Apprenticeships and Traineeships will mean students graduate secondary school with a trade qualification and ready for work.”

“Our kids need to be ready for the jobs of the future. That’s why we’re making record investments in the classroom so that every student can develop the skills they need to succeed in their chosen career and in life.”