

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Emergency Services



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SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES AT SCHOOL

The Andrews Labor Government is helping students with type 1 diabetes get the most out of school, thanks to new innovative resources and training.

Minister for Education James Merlino today released the new *Diabetes Guidelines – Supporting Students with Type 1 Diabetes in Victorian Schools* and Diabetes at School online education package to help schools across the state support students with diabetes in their care.

Between 2,000 and 2,500 Victorian students are estimated to be affected by type 1 diabetes, which is incurable and requires round-the-clock management.

While support needs differ from one person to the next, all students with this form of diabetes need some level of support at school to help manage their condition.

The new guidelines provide practical advice on communication, staff training, implementing treatment plans and making active and reasonable adjustments to make sure students affected by diabetes get the most out of school.

They have been developed in close consultation with Diabetes Victoria and clinicians from the Royal Children’s Hospital and Monash Children’s Hospital, schools and parents, to ensure they have up-to-date, practical and evidence-backed advice.

Diabetes Victoria, working together with Royal Children’s and Monash Children’s hospitals, has also developed an online education package for all Victorian school staff.

It will help principals, teachers and other school staff build awareness of type 1 diabetes and confidence to support students in their care, particularly how to recognise and safely respond in the event of an emergency.

The training package is available at diabetesatschool.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

“Medical conditions such as type 1 diabetes should not be a barrier to any students reaching their potential at school and being able to fully and safely participate in educational activities.”

“Healthy children learn better, which is why it’s so important that school staff, parents and carers, and diabetes treating teams work together to support students with type 1 diabetes.”

Quote attributable to Victorian Government Health Ambassador for Diabetes Bronwyn Halfpenny

“These new tools will ensure parents can have confidence their kids will be able to fully participate in the classroom and beyond while receiving the care they need.”

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