



The Hon. Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

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Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for the correspondence regarding Victoria University Secondary College.

The Victorian Government's ongoing responsibility is to balance and prioritise the needs of more than 1,580 government schools, all with varying requirements. Since 2015, we have funded \$18.5 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across Victoria.

Concerning the request for Stage 2 capital works funding, developing a school is a significant investment and capital works projects can involve a number of stages to ensure that public money is invested in the right place at the right time. When allocating funding for school upgrades and subsequent stages of existing projects, the Victorian Government uses all available information, including condition assessments, enrolment projections, and pre-existing project plans.

Regarding the request for a new specialist school, when planning to support students with disabilities across Victoria the Department of Education annually considers forecast education demand and access to existing specialist and supported inclusion schools. This ensures that students with disabilities have access to a range of inclusive education options. This process has already resulted in a significant expansion of specialist education provision in Melbourne's growing west.

Schools can also apply to the Accessible Building Program (ABP) which helps to provide access for students with disabilities by making modifications to existing infrastructure. Applications for the ABP are assessed on a rolling basis and schools are encouraged to apply year-round. The college has not made an application with the ABP for the past 5 years. Should the college choose to apply to the APB, the department's regional office can provide assistance.

I can assure you the department will continue to ensure all government schools, including Victoria University Secondary College, are appropriately resourced to support students with disabilities to fully participate in school life.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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