

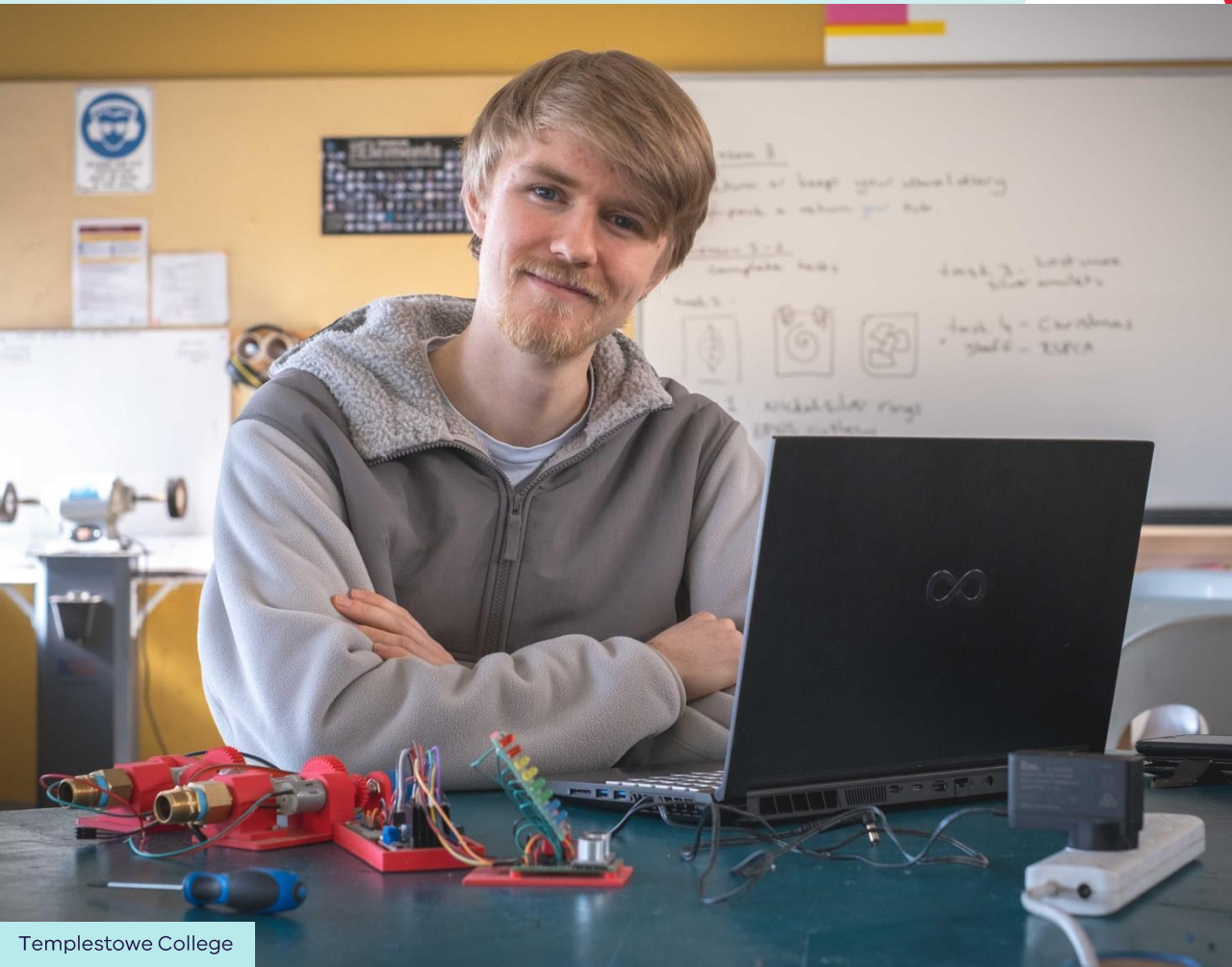
# 2026/27 Victorian Budget

The Hon. Ben Carroll MP – Minister for Education

Tuesday 19 May 2026



Umarkoo Primary School



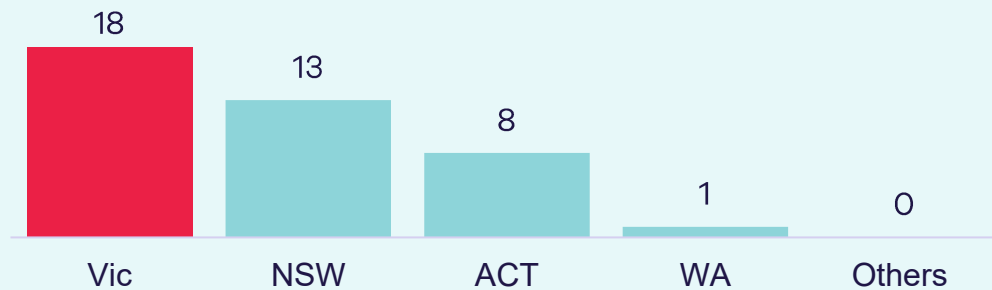
Templestowe College

# Key achievements in the Education State

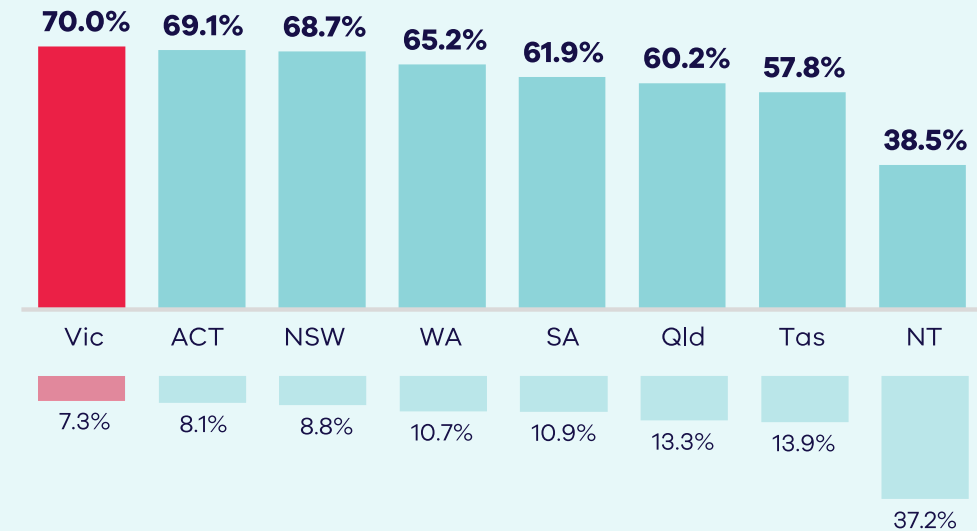
## NAPLAN in 2025

Victorian NAPLAN results were the best in the country overall.

Victoria ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** or **2<sup>nd</sup>** nationally on mean scores across 18 of 20 measures.



Victoria has the most students who are 'strong' or 'exceeding' (**70%**) and the fewest needing additional support (**7.3%**).



## Senior secondary reforms

- More students are completing senior secondary education than ever – **97.4%** in 2025, compared to **91.7%** in 2021.
- Year 10 to 12 retention rate increased to **85%** in 2025 – the highest level in **8** years.

## Schools infrastructure

- Since 2015, **121** new schools have opened – many in rapidly growing areas across the state.
- More than **2,400** upgrades at over **1,250** government schools.

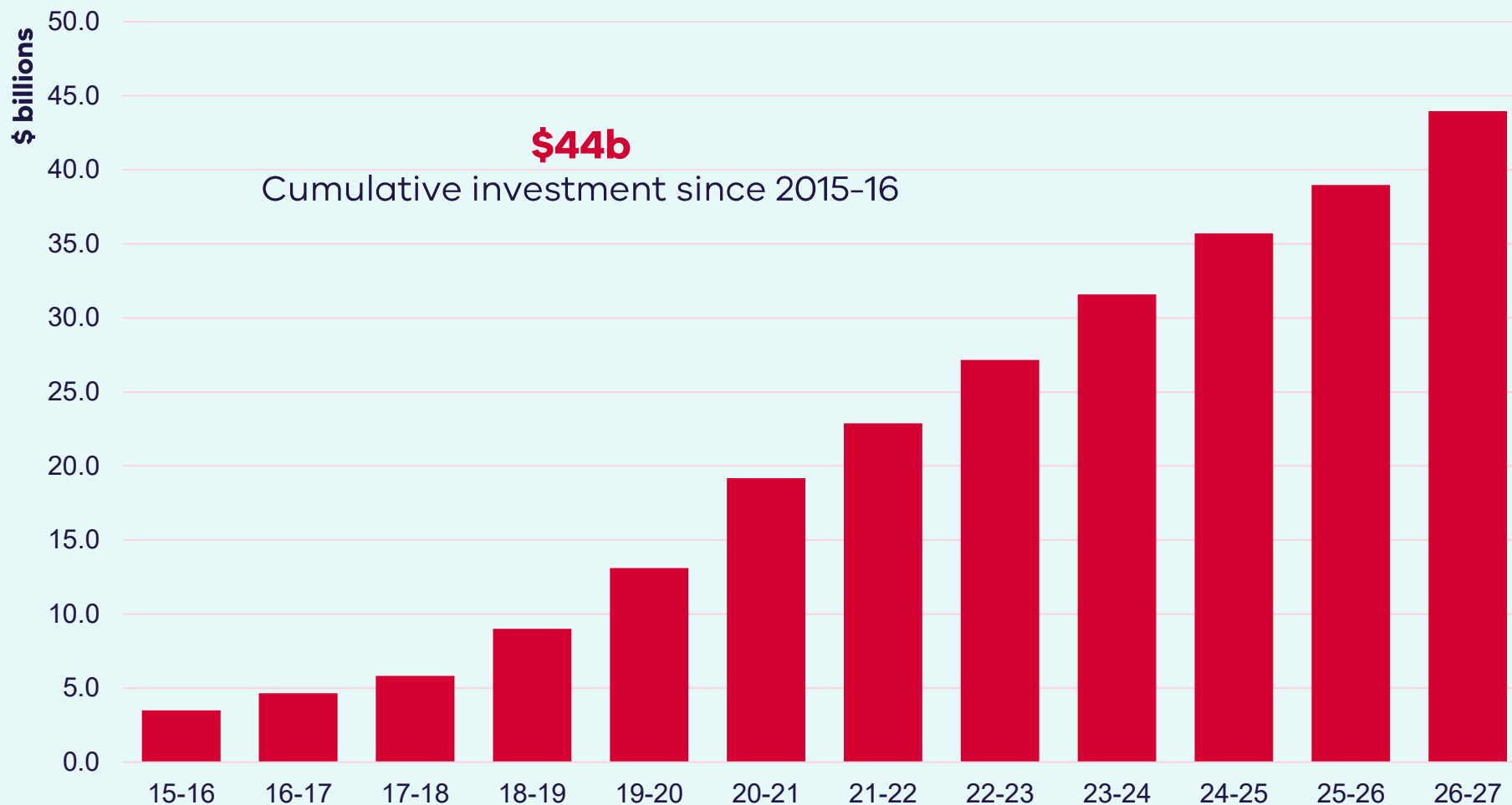


Yirrama Primary School



**\$44b**  
over 12 years

# Investing in school education



An additional **\$4.9 billion** in school education funding in the 2026/27 Budget, bringing the total government investment to **\$44 billion since 2015-16**, including \$20.1 billion to build and upgrade schools



Leongatha Secondary College



**\$2.1b**

for the Disability Inclusion reform, providing essential funding, support and workforce training to support students with disability

This Budget also invests:

**\$24.1m**

to continue high educator-to-child ratio Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) at specialist schools, including free High Intensity OSHC at 31 specialist schools

**\$39m**

to continue the Students with Disability Transport Program for specialist schools



An additional  
**\$59.4m**  
for vital cost-of-  
living programs  
in Victorian  
government  
schools

# Making a difference for families and students

## Glasses for Kids

- **68,000+** students tested
- **13,000+** free pairs of glasses for students who need them
- to be made available to more schools.

## School Breakfast Clubs

- **65 million+** free, healthy meals for students, including breakfasts, lunches and takeaway packs
- **1,300+** schools offering the program
- open to all Victorian government schools.

## Affordable School Uniforms

- **2.3 million+** free uniform items for disadvantaged students
- also provides school bags, shoes and swimming items.



# Best-practice teaching and learning



**\$75.1m**

to continue supporting and extending our high-ability students through the Victorian High-Ability Program and the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series



**\$61.9m**

to support eligible students with English as an additional language



**\$23.6m**

to support Grade 1 Phonics Check, Abilities Based Learning and Education Support program and small-group tutoring for primary school students



**\$2.2m**

to support the teaching of First Nations histories, cultures and perspectives through the Curriculum Clusters Project



**\$1m**

to encourage children to read more by including quality books from local authors in Prep Bags



# Supporting senior secondary students to achieve



## \$144.7m

to support senior secondary students to access high-quality vocational and applied learning pathways, as well as career education and work-based learning opportunities

This includes:

Support for students enrolled in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships through the Head Start program

More pathways and better opportunities for rural and regional students, including through VET transport funding

Continued support for Vocational Taster Experiences and the Trade and Tech Fit careers expo to encourage students to explore in-demand careers

Career advice and supports for early school leavers to engage with education, training or employment pathways

Funding for dedicated staff to support VET program delivery and reduce administration burden on schools

# Making sure schools are safe and welcoming for all



**\$23.5m**

to support students at risk of suspension, expulsion and contact with youth justice through early intervention



**\$9.1m**

to continue supports for refugee children and students, including the Early Years Program and Learning Beyond the Bell homework clubs



**\$0.8m**

to provide students with the skills they need to stand up against racism and discrimination through the Courage to Care upstander program

# Rebuilding the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

**\$222.2m**

to ensure the VCAA delivers high-quality curriculum, assessment and reporting, as well as progresses all recommendations of the Blacher Review, including delivering new IT infrastructure to support schools, teachers and students.



# Support for schools and education staff



**\$49.2m**

to continue delivering professional learning that enhances the capability of teachers and school leaders, through the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership



**\$30.4m**

to enhance cybersecurity by centralising technology platforms for more public schools



**\$21.5m**

to support paid placements and placement support for pre-service teachers



**\$17.9m**

to support the migration of IT infrastructure to a cloud-based system



Wiyal Primary School

# Investing in the future: schools infrastructure



## \$441.2 m

for **3 new schools** opening in 2028 , a new South Melbourne Primary School campus opening in 2029, additional stages at **3** recently opened new schools, as well as early works construction for **3** more schools and campuses, plus planning for future new schools across Victoria



## \$551.6m

over 5 years, and **\$130.5 million ongoing**, for school maintenance programs, including rapid support for schools damaged by incidents or extreme weather



## \$294.8m

to upgrade and modernise **31** schools



## \$104m

to buy land for new schools in **Cardinia, Mount Duneed, Hume, Melbourne, Mitchell** and **Wyndham**



# \$1.6b

investment

# Non-government school payroll tax exemptions

From 1 July 2026, non-government schools with an income per student up to **\$16,397** will be exempt from payroll tax.

The threshold will be adjusted annually to reflect the SRS amount determined and published by the Commonwealth Government.

This change ensures that more than **90%** of Victoria's non-government schools remain exempt from payroll tax.





**\$4.9 billion**

to set up students for future success



# The Education State



Department  
of Education