

The Hon. James Merlino MP  
Minister for Education  
Tuesday 12 May 2015

2015-16  
Public Accounts and  
Estimates Committee



# Transforming Victoria into the Education State



We promised to transform Victoria into the **Education State**.

- Education is the **biggest investment** the Government will ever make in each of us
- We must ensure all Victorians are achieving their best **regardless of location, background or circumstance**.
- In the Education State, all Victorians will have the skills and attributes to shape their future in a changing world.
- To deliver on our vision, we need to **address the following key challenges**:
  - flat-lining performance
  - growth in the school aged population
  - persistent gaps in equity, access and outcomes.



# Laying the foundations in the 2015-16 Budget

This Education State budget represents the biggest ever injection of extra funding to support students in Victorian schools.

## This funding of \$3.5 billion:

- delivers the majority of our election commitments,
- reconfirms the Government's commitment to the Gonski Agreement, with funding for 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- funds initiatives to break down barriers of disadvantage and to ensure more schools and students have access to education and wellbeing programs, and
- provides an unprecedented investment into school Infrastructure.



# Delivering on our election commitments - an opportunity for all

The 2015-16 Budget includes an initial **\$178 million** package of initiatives to deliver on our election commitments that support students to access and participate in education.

## Highlights of this package includes:

- **\$148 million** for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- **\$16 million** for the Affordable School Uniforms Program
- **\$14 million** for School Breakfast Clubs
- **\$0.4 million** for Glasses for Kids



## The Budget also includes:

- **\$2 million** for the Music in Schools program
- **\$1.6 million** for Mentoring
- **\$1.04 million** for the Safe Schools Coalition Victoria



# Delivering on our election commitments - infrastructure investment



\$730 million funding injection into school infrastructure.

## Highlights of this funding include:

- \$345 million TEI for upgrades and modernisations for at least 84 Victorian government schools
- \$120 million for capital works at non-government schools
- \$111 million TEI to support the delivery of 10 new schools
- \$42 million to fund the first stage of the Government's asbestos removal program
- \$40 million TEI to purchase land for four future schools in growth corridors
- \$12 million for tech schools.



This package also provides funding for critical school infrastructure investment, including:

- \$35 million for the relocatable classroom program
- \$25 million for critical school maintenance



# The Education State



- Through this budget, the Government reconfirms its commitment to the Gonski School Funding Agreement, the principles of which are central to making Victoria the Education State.
- Funding of **\$1.4 billion** will be directed into initiatives that the evidence shows will improve the outcomes of Victoria's school students.
- As a Government, we are committed to addressing student disadvantage and ensuring that funding is directed to the areas that need it most
- The Government will **consult with stakeholders, including schools and school leaders**, on the development of new school initiatives and proposed delivery models.



# Looking ahead

- Over the coming months, this Government will work with the community to **co-design a long-term reform agenda** to make Victoria the Education State.
- **This budget lays the groundwork** to revitalise Victoria's education system and restore opportunities for Victorians.
- The Government is working on a range of new initiatives to support Victoria's transformation into the Education State. Announcements will be made throughout this year.
- A review will also be undertaken into the Student Resource Package to examine how School Education funds are allocated and used.

