Public Accounts and Estimates Hearing – COVID-19 response
2 December 2020

THE HON. JAMES MERLINO MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for the Coordination of Education and Training – COVID-19

THE EDUCATION STATE
Victoria State Government
Education and Training
Returning to remote and flexible learning

### Regional Victoria

**Peak of case numbers:** 725

**August 5**

### Stage 4 restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Step</th>
<th>Second Step</th>
<th>Third Step</th>
<th>Last Step</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>October 5 (2nd step)</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 8 (2nd step)</strong></td>
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<td>Prep-Grade 6 in standalone PS return to onsite learning Years 11 &amp; 12 and Year 10 VCE &amp; VCAL onsite for GAT and essential assessments.</td>
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### Metro Melbourne

**August 2**

Premier declares State of Disaster.

**Stage 4 Restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne**

**August 5 stage 4**

Onsite attendance at metropolitan Melbourne TAFEs, training providers and universities further limited to just courses supporting permitted occupations and activities that cannot be done remotely

**August 6 stage 4**

All metro Melbourne students return to remote learning except for vulnerable students and those of permitted workers. On-site supervision tightened but available for students who really need it

**Access to early childhood education services in metropolitan Melbourne** restricted to vulnerable children and children of permitted workers and permitted students. Many services providing support for learning at home as well as delivering on-site

**October 27**

**First day of zero cases**

**COVID Normal**

**Regional**

11.59pm 22 November

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**August 5 (First step)**

- Regional Victoria (including Mitchell Shire) returns to **Stage 3 Stay at Home** restrictions.
- All regional students return to remote learning except for vulnerable and specialist school students, those with a disability and those with parents at work.
- Early Childhood Education Services in regional Victoria remain open for all children to attend, with appropriate risk mitigation measures in place.

**October 5 (2nd step)**

- Prep-Grade 6 in standalone PS return to onsite learning.
- Years 11 & 12 and Year 10 VCE & VCAL onsite for GAT and essential assessments.

**October 8 (2nd step)**

- Prep-Grade 6 in P-12 schools return to on-site learning.

**October 12 (2nd step)**

- All other students on-site.

**Third step Regional**

- Childcare and early education: open.
- Schools: onsite learning.
- Adult education: learn from home if you can.

**Last step regional**

- Childcare and early education: open.
- Schools: onsite learning for all with safety measures in place.
- Adult education: return to campus for students and staff for summer programs.

**COVID Normal regional**

- Adult education: return to onsite learning.

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**Stage 4 restrictions**

- **First step Melbourne Metro**
  - Childcare and early education: closed except for permitted workers.
  - Schools: remote learning unless an exemption applies.
  - Adult education: only onsite for those on permitted list.

- **Second step Melbourne Metro**
  - Childcare and early education: open.
  - Schools: staged return to onsite learning.
  - Adult education: learn from home if you can.

- **Third step Melbourne Metro**
  - Childcare and early education: open.
  - Schools: onsite learning.
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- **Last step Melbourne Metro**
  - Childcare and early education: open.
  - Schools: onsite learning for all with safety measures in place.
  - Adult education: return to campus for students and staff for summer programs.

**COVID Normal Melbourne Metro**

- Adult education: return to onsite learning.

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**Peak of case numbers:** 725

**August 5**

**Stage 4**

- Stay at Home restrictions.
- All regional students return to remote learning except for vulnerable and specialist school students, those with a disability and those with parents at work.
- Early Childhood Education Services in regional Victoria remain open for all children to attend, with appropriate risk mitigation measures in place.

**Stage 3**

- Childcare and early education: open.
- Schools: onsite learning.
- Adult education: learn from home if you can.

**Stage 2**

- Childcare and early education: open.
- Schools: onsite learning.
- Adult education: learn from home if you can.

**Stage 1**

- Childcare and early education: open.
- Schools: onsite learning for all with safety measures in place.
- Adult education: return to campus for students and staff for summer programs.

**COVID Normal**

- Adult education: return to onsite learning.

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**Stage 4**

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**August 5 stage 4**

- Onsite attendance at metropolitan Melbourne TAFEs, training providers and universities further limited to just courses supporting permitted occupations and activities that cannot be done remotely.

**August 6 stage 4**

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**Access to early childhood education services in metropolitan Melbourne** restricted to vulnerable children and children of permitted workers and permitted students. Many services providing support for learning at home as well as delivering on-site.

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- 11.59pm 22 November.

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**Regional Victoria**

- Stage 4 restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne.

**Metro Melbourne**

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**THE EDUCATION STATE**

**Education and Training**

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**COVID Normal**

- Adult education: return to onsite learning.

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**COVID Normal**

- Adult education: return to onsite learning.
SCHOOLS – COVID-19 Response
Keeping our schools safe

Essential actions keeping schools safe
- Cleaning
- Physical distancing
- Hygiene
- Health
- Masks – 2.9 million single use masks distributed to schools across all sectors

Dedicated team within DHHS to support schools

New COVIDSafe Assurance Program to support Principals keep schools safe

50,660 government school staff completed online infection control training by early November

Up to $45 million for enhanced cleaning in Term 4

60,000 litres Alcohol-based hand sanitiser distributed to schools since the start of term 1

Student attendance

<table>
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Supporting the wellbeing of students and staff through the pandemic

$28.5 million for student mental health support including:

1,500 school staff to undergo additional mental health training to support students

5,818 staff members attended dedicated wellbeing webinars

90% of Principal’s received training to support the mental health of their staff

Navigator and Lookout programs expanded to keep students engaged in education

$10 million to expand Mental Health Practitioners program to include 85 secondary and P-12 specialist schools

15 new schools added to Mental Health in Primary Schools pilot

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Supporting VCE and VCAL students through the pandemic

83,583

Students sitting at least one VCE exam in 2020

• Every VCE student to be individually assessed for impacts of global pandemic upon education
• Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority to introduce Consideration of Educational Disadvantage to calculate VCE scores
• Students receive results via email, the internet and a phone app from 7am, Wednesday, 30 December
• VCAL students have been given special consideration for the completion of units
• VET studies extended until 18 December to give students additional time to complete practical work
SCHOOLS – COVID-19 Response
Supporting our students through recovery

$250 million
To deploy 4,100 tutors including $5.2 million for CALD students

$24.5 million
Continuation of School Breakfast Clubs to ensure students could get a healthy and nutritious breakfast

$31.6 million
Boost for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief for school uniforms

$7.4 million
Programs to improve the inclusivity of learning environments for Koorie learners
EARLY CHILDHOOD – COVID-19 Response
Supporting Early Childhood Education and Care Services

Up to $71.7 million to support kindergarten services – including free sessional kinder in Terms 2, 3 and 4

PLUS UP TO $1,500 in cleaning grants for services with a kinder program during Terms 2, 3 and 4

95.7% of funded kindergarten services offered Learning From Home programs

1,400 masks provided

700 thermometers provided
EARLY CHILDHOOD
Supporting our recovery from the pandemic

$169.6 million
invested in Free Kinder for 2021

Saving families around
$2,000
in both sessional kindergarten and long day care

$302 million
to continue the roll-out of our landmark near $5 billion decade-long Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reforms

$6.2 million
in early intervention specialist support to ensure young children are best supported as we recover
HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Response and towards recovery

Supporting TAFEs

$423.8 million support package for TAFEs and public and community-based training providers:
• Up to $191.9 million for business continuity
• $163 million expansion of Free TAFE with 10,000 more places
• $68.9 million in crisis support

Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund

$350 million
To support universities with capital works, applied research and research partnerships

TAFEs teaching online

More courses delivered online, including 12 Free TAFE qualifications

Retrenched Apprentices and Trainees Program

$875,000 to keep retrenched apprentices and trainees engaged in work and training
HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Response and towards recovery

60,000 extra Free TAFE places as part of an extra 80,000 training places, to support people get the training they need.

$33.2 million towards Big Build apprenticeships to ensure the next generation of tradies get their start on some of our biggest infrastructure projects with 1,500 apprentices supported every year.

$9.3 million to fund further Apprenticeship Support Officers to help apprentices complete their training.

$155.4 million to expand access to training for those hardest hit by pandemic so they can reskill.

1,000 extra places at Learn Locals.

$6.5 million for a TAFE teacher attraction program including 200 scholarships.

$5 million towards a dedicated fund to get more women into non-traditional trades.
Education Infrastructure Investment– 2020-21 Budget

Schools
Investing a further:

- $3 billion in school capital works
- $1.7 billion for 218 school upgrades
- $438.6 million to build 10 new schools
- 8,000 jobs created

Early Childhood

- $68.5 million to upgrade, expand and build early learning services including:
  - $30 million for minor capital works
  - $38.5 million for Building Blocks to build, expand and create more inclusive early learning facilities.

TAFEs

- $107.6 million for Building Better TAFEs fund to upgrade and rebuild Chisholm Institute’s Frankston campus and Melbourne Polytechnic's Collingwood campus
- $55 million for maintenance projects at TAFEs