

WHAT'S IN THE *VICTORIAN BUDGET 2023/24*

FIND OUT IN THIS SPECIAL LIFTOUT FROM SONJA TERPSTRA MP,
YOUR LABOR MEMBER FOR THE NORTH-EASTERN METRO REGION

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NORTH-EASTERN METRO REGION



Sonja with Shaun Leane MP and the Warrandyte Cricket Club leadership celebrating the \$300,000 upgrade to their training nets to come from the *Victorian Budget 23/24*.

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with delivering on its election promises for our community investing – in what matters for the people of the North-Eastern Metropolitan Region.

We haven't wasted a day delivering the services and projects that matter to Victorians. With the *Victorian Budget 2023/24*, we're getting on with doing what we said we'd do.

State Owned Renewable Energy

Victorians remember the State Electricity Commission (SEC): it meant a fair deal on your power prices and good, stable jobs for workers.

That's why we're bringing it back – to drive down power bills and create thousands of jobs in renewable, government-owned energy.

Bringing back the SEC won't just mean more renewable energy, lower power bills and reduced carbon emissions – it'll also help create 59,000 jobs.

An initial \$1 billion investment in the SEC will help deliver 4.5 gigawatts of power – the equivalent replacement capacity of Loy Yang A – through renewable energy projects.

Quality Public Education

Every family should have a great local school. That's why as part of a more than \$2 billion investment in schools across Victoria the Labor Government will invest to begin planning the next stage of the upgrade to Melba Secondary College in Croydon.

With 90 per cent of a child's brain developing before the age of five, early education has the most profound impact on how our kids develop.

That's why we're delivering Free Kinder for three and four-year-olds, establishing Pre-Prep, and upgrading or

providing new equipment to kinders across the state to make sure Victorian kids can get the best start for the best life.

We'll give more families across Victoria access to local, affordable childcare – investing to establish the first of 50 government-owned and operated, affordable integrated childcare centres, which will open in 2025.

We're doing what we promised Victorians we would – from rebuilding hospitals through to upgrades at local sporting facilities and support for our community organisations.

We're doing what matters.

Reliable Healthcare

All Victorians should be able to get the healthcare they need, when they need it, close to home. We're investing in planning, development and early works to redevelop and expand Maroondah Hospital at Ringwood and re-name it in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

We're also beginning work on an expanded emergency department at the Austin Hospital at Heidelberg as part of our Hospital Plan for the North – giving patients access to emergency treatment when they need it, close to home.

New comprehensive Women's Health Clinics at the Maroondah Hospital in Croydon and the Mercy Hospital for Women in Heidelberg will change the way women's health issues are treated, providing care and support for conditions like endometriosis, pelvic pain, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), perimenopause and menopause.

We're getting on with building our mental health system from the ground up. We'll begin planning work for new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, including one in Heidelberg and one in Diamond Creek, to ensure more Victorians can get the help they need when they need it.

Family-friendly dog parks

Dogs are part of many Victorian families, and we know they need open space for exercise and play.

Local families and their four-legged friends will soon have more places to stretch their legs, with the Labor Government delivering on our promise to upgrade the dog parks in Lawford Reserve, Doncaster and Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte.

Community Sport and Support Services

Sport is such a big part of our community, helping families to stay active and engaged, and the Warrandyte Cricket Club has been doing this since 1855. I was pleased to get to visit them on budget day to announce \$300,000 towards the upgrade of their training nets. We'll give local cricketers more opportunities to come together while supporting the next generation of Warrandyte's sporting greats.



Sonja with Kelly, the manager of the Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre

We'll keep backing the community organisations that provide support and services to help Victorians when they need it the most. The Park Orchards Community House & Learning Centre makes a huge contribution to our local area, providing locals with support services, education and a sense of community they can be proud of. We're supporting the great work they do with a \$60,000 grant to keep up this essential service for locals.

These are the things that matter – and the things we promised to Victorians.

VICTORIAN BUDGET 23/24 - DOING WHAT MATTERS

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR **Our Health System**

We've always invested to make sure Victorians have the world-class healthcare they need, when they need it, close to home.

It's never been more important than right now, as health systems around the world continue to recover from the pressure of the pandemic.

The Andrews Labor Government is doing what matters: giving our healthcare system – and the dedicated workers who care for Victorians – a **\$4.9 billion** boost in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24*.

This Budget will deliver on every promise we made to Victorians at the election – with more healthcare workers, new services, the latest equipment and new and upgraded hospitals across the state.

That's on top of more than \$54 billion we've invested in our healthcare system – as well as the workers we need to run it – since coming to government in 2014.

More support for our nurses and midwives

We've made it free to study nursing and enshrined nurse-to-patient ratios in law. Now, we'll do even more to give nurses the support they need to keep caring for Victorians.

Funding is provided to support more nurses and midwives in resuscitation bays, maternity night shifts, intensive care units, high dependency units, coronary care units and aged care residential in-reach facilities. New graduates will be encouraged to enter the public system through sign-on bonuses, and a trial of neonatal support nurses will be delivered to provide additional care on maternity wards.

Additional funding will also reduce administrative and financial burden for nurses and midwives through the creation of centralised portals for education and employment checks.

We're building and upgrading

HOSPITALS

across Victoria

- ✓ New Albury Hospital
- ✓ Austin Hospital upgrade
- ✓ Dandenong Hospital upgrade
- ✓ Monash Medical Centre upgrade
- ✓ Northern Hospital upgrade
- ✓ New Queen Elizabeth II Hospital
- ✓ New West Gippsland Hospital
- ✓ Wonthaggi Hospital upgrade
- ✓ Redevelopment of the Royal Women's and the Royal Children's



Austin Hospital, Northern Hospital and Maroondah Hospital Upgrades

We're investing \$320 million into the Hospital Infrastructure Delivery Fund to start works on the next stage of our record investments in new hospital infrastructure. This includes the planning, development, and early works for an expanded emergency department at the Austin Hospital, the new emergency department at the Northern Hospital - part of our Hospital Plan for the North - and the expansion of the Maroondah Hospital, making sure all Victorians get the best quality care, close to home.

Mercy Hospital for Women/Austin Hospital - Women's Health Clinic

We're investing almost \$58 million to deliver on our commitment to create 20 comprehensive women's health clinics across Victoria – a one-stop shop for women needing treatment or advice on issues from contraception to pelvic pain.

Supporting the next generation of paramedics

We're providing funding to train and deploy 25 paramedic practitioners to respond to and provide urgent care in the community, as well as train an additional 40 Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance paramedics. This initiative will also contribute funding to Australia's first Centre for Paramedicine to support education and training.

Investing in women's health

Women and girls make up more than half of our population. And yet their health is somehow seen as a 'niche issue'. Conditions including dysmenorrhoea (period pain), fibroids and menopausal symptoms will affect around 80 per cent of women in their lifetime. But still, they go under diagnosed and untreated.

The Andrews Labor Government has made important investments in women's health, including funding Victoria's first clinic focused on women's heart health and our state's first ever sexual and reproductive health phone line. But there's still more to do. In this Budget, we're giving women's health the serious focus and funding it deserves, including:

- \$86 million to help parents with their newborn babies, including more access to free Maternal and Child Health services and lactation consultants, additional support for fathers' groups and multicultural communities, a new early parenting centre and a centre dedicated to Aboriginal families and children. Funding will also support the Baby Bundle program
- \$65 million for 10,800 additional laparoscopies to help treat debilitating endometriosis, which affects one in every nine girls and women
- \$58 million for 20 new women's health clinics and a dedicated Aboriginal-led women's clinic, to overcome some of the barriers to treatment that women face such as cost, confidentiality, geographical location of services, cultural and communication differences.
- \$12 million for research initiatives that will directly benefit women's health, such as an inquiry into women's pain management and early work to establish a Women's Health Research Institute

Public fertility services care for more Victorian families

In this budget funding is provided to extend and expand public fertility care services to deliver more treatment cycles every year, enabling more Victorians to access services including those living in regional areas.

Free pads and tampons in public places

We'll supply free sanitary items across Victoria. 1,500 sanitary dispenser machines with free pads and tampons will be installed in up to 700 public sites across Victoria, including courts, TAFEs, libraries, train stations and cultural institutions, such as the State Library and Melbourne Museum.

We're delivering

20 WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINICS



Backing pharmacists to boost our health system

From October this year community pharmacists will be able to treat straightforward urinary tract infections, common skin conditions, and reissue contraceptive prescriptions as well as administer travel vaccinations and more public health vaccinations as part of a pilot program to take pressure of our GP networks.

We're delivering

50 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LOCALS

across the state



Planning for Mental Health & Wellbeing Locals in Heidelberg and Diamond Creek

We're planning new Mental Health & Wellbeing Local Services in Heidelberg and Diamond Creek that will provide support and treatment for adults aged 26 and older experiencing mental illness or psychological distress, including those with co-occurring substance use or addiction.

The Local Services will act as a 'front door' to the mental health and wellbeing system offering welcoming and inclusive spaces, staffed by qualified mental health professionals, including peer support workers to cater for the diverse needs of the community.

The services will provide free, easy to access mental health care without the need to have a GP referral or meet eligibility criteria. This means people will get the support they need sooner while staying in their community, close to their families, carers and supporters.

ARE YOU A CASUAL OR CONTRACT WORKER?
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO SIGN UP FOR THE SICK PAY GUARANTEE.
TO CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY OR MAKE A CLAIM SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT VIC.GOV.AU/SICK-PAY-GUARANTEE



VICTORIAN BUDGET 23/24 - DOING WHAT MATTERS

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR **Our Education System**

From kinder, to great local schools, all the way to TAFE and uni – education changes lives.

And from new schools to easing the cost of living for busy working families, the Andrews Labor Government is doing what matters for young Victorians – investing **\$4.9 billion** in the Education State through the *Victorian Budget 2023/24*.

Victorian schools are the backbone of the Education State. In this Budget, we'll invest \$3.1 billion in our schools. This includes commitments to ease the workload of our dedicated teachers, support student mental health and learning outcomes, and deliver six tech schools to prepare students for the jobs of the future.

Best Start, Best Life: Best Kinders for Victorian Kids

The budget provides funds to create 10 new bilingual kindergartens, eight new toy libraries and establish an extra 150 Bush Kinder programs each year. Funding will also provide grants to existing kindergartens to purchase new toys and equipment and continue the early childhood language program for over 200 kindergarten services.

Best Start, Best Life: Pre-Prep

We're continuing delivery of the Best Start, Best Life initiative to progressively transition four-year-old kindergarten to Pre-Prep, providing 30 hours per week of play-based learning by 2032. Initiatives will also invest in workforce attraction, retention and quality, and includes funding for Aboriginal-controlled organisations and Traditional Owners to work with early childhood services to improve cultural safety and inclusion.

Best Start, Best Life: Free Kinder

Funding is provided to continue the delivery of free kindergarten programs for three and four-year-olds in participating services. This will support children's participation in learning in the critical years before school and support families with the costs of early childhood education.

We're expanding

OUT OF HOURS CARE FOR SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

to 30 schools



DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR **Our Energy Market**

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* kickstarts investment in the SEC to drive jobs in renewable energy, while also investing to protect Victoria's natural environment and help Victorian families with cost of living relief.

We'll revive the SEC as an active energy market participant and make an initial investment of \$1 billion to replace unreliable and privately owned coal with cleaner and cheaper renewable energy – with all profits invested back into the network.

Because we know how important it is to protect the SEC for future generations, we'll enshrine the SEC in Victoria's Constitution with legislation.

Neighbourhood Battery for Yarra Ranges

Invest \$42 million to install 100 neighbourhood batteries across Victoria, tripling the number of homes with access to a battery and providing crucial extra storage capacity for local communities.

Clean Energy Worker Training Centres

Funding is provided for the establishment of two worker training centres for the emerging offshore and onshore wind industry, and the hydrogen industry.

Transforming our specialist schools

Parents of children with disability feel like they're navigating a system that has been set up to fail them. It shouldn't be this hard. This Budget delivers a \$235 million package to help students living with disability, their carers and their families. The package provides \$122 million to support one of the biggest challenges for families of children with disability – out-of-hours care. The Budget expands the Outside School Hours Care program to 30 specialist schools, giving more kids the high-intensity support they need.

Melba College Upgrades

The Andrews Labor Government has committed funding to plan the next phase of the incredible school upgrade, helping the school complete stage 3 of their master plan by getting the project ready for tender.

Stage three will include a performing arts centre amongst other vital school infrastructure that will benefit students for many years.

A new clean energy pathway for schools

Funding is provided to introduce a clean energy Vocational Education and Training (VET) pathway to the VCE Vocational Major from 2024. This will support students to develop job-ready skills in the renewables sector. An electronic marketplace will also be developed to streamline enrolment and course planning for VET Delivered to Secondary Students.

Cheaper energy for Victorians, by Victorians – work experience

Funding is provided to support 10,000 students to undertake work experience placements in clean energy and other priority pathways. In addition, high-quality career education will continue with more training for school staff and new targeted investments for disadvantaged students who are currently missing out on these opportunities.

We're building

50 GOVERNMENT OWNED AND RUN CHILDCARE CENTRES



Apprentice mental health training program

Funding is provided to develop and deliver an apprentice mental health training program for apprentices. This includes support for apprentices at smaller employers to access employee assistance programs and for employers to improve their mental health and suicide prevention literacy.

We've extended

FREE TAFE

to all Victorians



Backing TAFE for the skills Victoria needs

Funding is provided to amend training subsidy eligibility criteria to make subsidised training courses, including Free TAFE, more widely available to people returning to study.

This also includes a change to the once-in-a-lifetime limit on enrolling in a FreeTAFE course, to allow students to access multiple Free TAFE courses along priority training pathways.

SEC Centre of Training Excellence

Funding is provided to develop a business case for a SEC Centre of Training Excellence to provide training in the latest energy skills. Funding is also provided for new VET certificates and other qualifications focused on renewable energy and achieving the Victorian Energy Jobs Plan.

We're bringing back the

SEC

delivering cheaper and cleaner energy



VICTORIAN BUDGET 23/24 - DOING WHAT MATTERS

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR **Our Transport Infrastructure**



The Andrews Labor Government is doing what matters for Victorian commuters: building the road and rail projects Victorians need to get home sooner and safer, adding more public transport services, and making transport more affordable for hardworking families.

While the review is underway, we're getting on with the road and rail projects Victorians voted for – fixing the missing links in Victoria's transport networks and creating thousands of jobs across the state.

Cheaper public transport fares for the regions

From 31 March 2023, regional fares are capped at the same price as metropolitan zone 1+2 fares. Regional myki passes are capped at the metropolitan prices.

Road maintenance

Well-maintained roads are safer roads. This Budget continues our work to build a safer road network, with \$2.8 billion for a program of road maintenance and renewal and flood recovery works across the metropolitan and regional road network. This package includes routine

maintenance, road resurfacing and rehabilitation, and bridge and drainage repairs to support the productivity of our road network.

Zero Emission Buses

Funding is provided to commence the roll-out of zero emission buses as part of the recontracting of Metropolitan Bus Service Contracts expiring in 2025 in line with Victoria's Bus Plan.

DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR **Cost of Living**

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to provide support to families and households to help with cost of living pressures.

Here's just a few of the measures we're providing families:

\$250 Power Saving Bonus

On 24 March 2023, a new round of the Power Saving Bonus program commenced. Victorian households are now able to receive a new \$250 payment, including any households that received a payment through previous rounds of the program.

To apply, visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au

Electricity and Gas discounts for eligible concession card holders

Discounts are available for eligible concession card holders on their electricity and gas.

To find out more about the annual electricity concession, visit services.dffh.vic.gov.au/annual-electricity-concession

To find out more about the Winter Gas Concession, visit services.dffh.vic.gov.au/winter-gas-concession

Free TAFE

To help you get the skills for the job you want, we've made Free TAFE available to more Victorians. Even if you already have a VET qualification or a university degree, you can now access Free TAFE.

To find a list of available courses and providers, visit www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe

Free Kinder

From 2023, Free Kinder will be available for all Victorian three and four year old children at participating services in both standalone (sessional) services and long day care (childcare) settings – a saving of up to \$2,500 per child, every year.

To find your local participating kinder, visit findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au/

Solar Homes and batteries

The Solar Homes Program offers rebates to eligible Victorians to reduce the upfront cost of installing solar panels, to upgrade to an efficient hot water system, or to install a solar battery.

To find out more about the program, visit solar.vic.gov.au/solar-homes-program

Free registration for apprentices

The Andrews Labor Government is backing Victoria's hard-working apprentices, helping to ease cost of living pressures by making vehicle registration 100% free for eligible apprentices from next month, supporting the skills of the next generation of Victorian workers.

Free L-plate and P-plate licences

Aspiring L-platers will save up to \$51.40 in licence and online testing fees. While learner drivers going for their P-plates will save up to \$133.30 in licence and online hazard perception testing fees.

The Safe Driver Discount

Full licence holders (car, motorcycle, and heavy vehicle) that are eligible (who demonstrate safe driving behaviours behind the wheel) will receive a 25 per cent discount on their renewal.

Short-term vehicle registration

You can choose to register your vehicle for a shorter period of time (3 or 6 month). If you register for a shorter period, your annual registration fee is split into equal portions, which you will need to pay when they are due.

Car rego discounts for eligible concession holders

If you have an eligible concession, you (or your spouse or domestic partner) may be able to get a discount on your vehicle registration. A concession can only be claimed on one vehicle per concession card.

Capped V/Line fares

The new regional fare cap reduces the cost of a weekday daily ticket on the public transport network to \$9.20 for a full fare or \$4.60 concession. It also extends the Weekend Saver cap for travel on Victoria's regional network.

Victorian Homebuyer Fund

If you have a 5% deposit, the Victorian Government could contribute up to 25% of the purchase price in exchange for an equivalent share in the property.

To find out more, visit www.sro.vic.gov.au/homebuyer

First Home Owner Grants

If you are buying or building a new home valued up to \$750,000, you may be eligible for a First Home Owner Grant of \$10,000. To be eligible, the home must not have been previously sold or occupied.

To find out more, visit sro.vic.gov.au/first-home-owner

Free zoo and Melbourne Museum entry for kids

Children under 16 receive free admission to Healesville Sanctuary, Kyabram Fauna Park, Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo and Melbourne Museum on weekends, Victorian Public holidays and Victorian Government school holidays when accompanied/supervised by an adult.

And more...

For more info on any of these measures from the Andrews Labor Government, contact my office.

We're removing
110 LEVEL CROSSINGS
by 2030



Sonja _____
Terpstra.

MP North-Eastern Metro



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We Acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and celebrate their ongoing culture and contribution to society.

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