

# Media Release

**The Hon James Merlino MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Emergency Services



Getting Things Done.  
Making Things Fair.

Wednesday, 21 March 2018

## **BUILDING THE EDUCATION STATE IN ASHWOOD**

Ashwood families now have the new state-of-the-art secondary school they deserve after the revamped Ashwood High School opened today.

Minister for Education James Merlino officially opened the new facilities this afternoon, including an upgraded performing arts hall, a learning centre designed for senior students and a tiered, outdoor amphitheatre complete with audio and lighting hardware.

The \$5 million construction project also gives Ashwood kids three brand new netball and basketball courts and new classrooms.

The school now has freshly landscaped gardens and its storm drainage and the science and technology wings' roofs have been upgraded and repaired.

The Andrews Labor Government is now delivering an unprecedented 64 new school projects across Victoria to meet the demand created by the state's population boom, with more than 90,000 school-aged children and teenagers predicted to call Victoria home by 2022.

This includes having already built the school infrastructure needed to meet the needs of Victoria's growing student population until 2019 through an unprecedented investment of more than \$2.8 billion as part of the Education State.

Victoria's school building boom has delivered more than 1200 school upgrades, supporting almost 5000 construction jobs for Victorians.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino**

*"Victoria's population is booming, and we have got on with the job of building and upgrading schools across the state to meet the needs of our growing communities."*

*"Visiting schools I've seen the difference great facilities have on kids – they're proud of their school, more engaged and feel empowered to work hard and reach their potential."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Oakleigh Steve Dimopoulos**

*"The new facilities at Ashwood High School will give its students an amazing new performance space and modern classrooms, including some specifically designed to teach about commerce and graphic design."*