



Dear parents and carers

I write to you with great news about a recent funding commitment for our schools.

The Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino have announced the ALP's commitment to provide \$400 million in funding over the next four years to upgrade and build new Catholic and other non-government schools.

Catholic education will be the big winners from the fund, with the Premier indicating that our schools will receive 70-80% of the new funding.

The Andrews Labor Government has also announced a range of planning reforms which will streamline existing processes to help us build and maintain facilities for Catholic school communities across the state.

On top of this, Mr Andrews has committed funding to support the removal of asbestos and the other hazardous materials, which will ensure that all of our schools, wherever they are, are safe.

This is a huge announcement for the Catholic sector, and is the largest capital funding commitment a Victorian Government has made to our schools.

I know the significant contribution you already make to maintaining and upgrading the facilities at your child's school, and I also know that you keep putting your hands in your own pockets to make sure that they can have the best places to learn in. Across Victoria, parents and carers are contributing 80 cents in every dollar that our school sector spends on capital works in our schools.

Today's announcement is an acknowledgement of that fact.

Today's announcement is also a welcome recognition of the hard work from you and other members of your school community have put in over the last 18 months, sending a very clear message to decision-makers: Catholic education matters.

If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to write and thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education for their support of your school. Their addresses are:

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
james.merlino@parliament.vic.gov.au

Your principal will pass on any further updates on the policies of the other major parties in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your continued support for your school community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Elder', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Elder
Executive Director