

STATE BUDGET

2023-24

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SCHOOL FAMILIES KEY FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR'S BUDGET

The Malinauskas Labor Government's second State Budget will have a strong emphasis on cost-of-living relief for families and better student outcomes, with education a key focus.

For the third year in a row, the materials and services charge will be discounted by \$100 for each child – bringing the total investment to \$36 million over three years. This will provide critical relief to families at a time of year when budgets are already tight, and costs are escalating.

Families in need will also be supported by a \$6.5 million boost to the school breakfast program in government schools – the largest investment of its kind in the state's history.

It will see more than 1.4 million meals provided to South Australian children through breakfast programs at schools across the state over the next four years.

Families will be further supported by an investment of \$4.2 million for The Smith Family to help an additional 700 students each year in the Learning for Life program in public schools. The program supports students experiencing disadvantage to succeed at school, complete Year 12 and go on to work or further study, through support such as mentoring and educational programs and financial assistance for school essentials.

The Malinauskas Labor Government will also invest \$100.2 million across 66 government schools and preschools in South Australia to upgrade and repair important infrastructure. It will include upgrades to buildings, removal of aged buildings, bitumen repairs, heating, ventilation and cooling upgrades, roof replacements, toilet upgrades and structural repairs.

The investment will also help to address capacity and condition issues at a number of sites, including \$14 million for Plympton International College, and \$15 million at Virginia Primary School and Preschool.

This budget will also provide the first major investment in school buses in over 5 years, with \$1.3 million for new four-wheel-drive buses on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and \$13.9 million for large new buses in regional South Australia

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to replace existing buses in the fleet.

There is also \$515,000 to support government secondary schools to implement the ban on the use of mobile phones, where they don't have the financial capacity to do so and need additional support. This supports the ongoing delivery of this critical election commitment.

Funding of \$35 million from the Commonwealth Government for the National Student Wellbeing Program is confirmed to continue providing important wellbeing supports for students.

The budget confirms that funding has been provisioned for the delivery of 3-year-old preschool, pending the final recommendations of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care which is set to hand down its final report in August, so the Government can get on with delivering this important election commitment.

Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

The cost of living is a significant challenge across the country, and we know there are families doing it tough.

This budget continues the Malinauskas Labor Government's record of helping those most in need in our community – and supporting our schools as key pillars of the community in addressing those needs.

We have also made sure there is funding provisioned in the budget to deliver 3-year-old preschool – and once the Royal Commissioner has handed down her report we won't be wasting a moment in rolling out this election commitment.

Quotes attributable to Blair Boyer

The funding is targeted to help public schools with the greatest need deliver a range of important programs.

This budget is focussed on ensuring children have access to education, access to support if they need it and access to healthy breakfasts to start their days, ensuring we are giving children and young people the best start in life.

Every investment we are making is aimed at improving educational and wellbeing outcomes for students – because we know that supporting students' wellbeing helps them to improve academically.

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