

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION HON JOHN GARDNER MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Marshall Liberal Government invests in children and their futures

The Marshall Liberal Government State Budget 2021-22 builds on the record \$1.3 billion investment in public education infrastructure to further enhance young South Australians' learning opportunities and environment, with the Marshall Government delivering a new year 7 to 12 high school, fast-tracking urgent capital works at government schools and preschools and launching a landmark new \$50.1 million Early Learning Strategy.

The Early Learning Strategy aims to increase the number of children developmentally on track by the time they start school, with greater access to child development professionals, easier connections for parents with increased support for playgroups and a significant investment in South Australia's nation-leading preschool system.

The strategy outlines a suite of initiatives including:

- \$35.1 million to expand the reach, frequency and number of child development checks
- Helping parents in their role as first teachers, including by partnering and providing grants to Playgroups SA and Raising Literacy Australia, to give more families easy access to tips, tricks and resources to support their child's development
- Investment in new resources for teachers to build on the high-quality learning and development in our public preschools
- Providing strategic vision and direction across the South Australian Government through the establishment of a new Office for the Early Years within the Department for Education.

The initiative to expand the reach, frequency and number of child development checks provides \$1.5 million in 2021-22, \$8.3 million in 2022-23 and \$8.5 million in 2023-24 for the new Office for the Early Years to design and commission trials of service models to increase the number of children from birth to age five accessing developmental health checks and at more regular intervals, in partnership with the Child and Family Health Service and non-government partners.

Ongoing funding of \$16.7 million per annum will be provided once the model of delivery is fully implemented from 2024-25.

Another key investment in education as part of the State Budget 2021-22 is \$84.4 million to construct a new 1200-place year 7 to 12 high school on the Norwood Morialta High School Rostrevor campus, identified by the Department for Education as its top priority for investment in a new government school and recommended by Infrastructure SA for an investment decision earlier this year in its Capital Intentions Statement 2021.

The site's ageing buildings will be completely removed and replaced with contemporary learning facilities. The existing oval and soccer pitch will be retained.

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

The new high school will be open from the beginning of the 2023 school year for year 7 students, with the remaining facilities ready by the beginning of the 2024 school year. \$42 million has also been allocated over three years for urgent capital works at government schools and preschools as part of the Marshall Liberal Government's ongoing commitment to improve education infrastructure across the state. The following education sites receiving funding have been selected according to the highest priorities identified by the Department for Education:

Seaview Downs Primary School \$15 million
Pimpala Primary School \$12 million
Nailsworth Primary School \$5 million
Salisbury East High School \$4 million
Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School (Langhorne Creek campus) \$3 million
Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre \$2 million
Balharry Memorial Kindergarten \$500,000

An additional allocation of \$1 million per annum will see increased support for the office of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, given the expanded functions for the role anticipated by legislation currently before Parliament.

An additional \$11.8 million will be invested in the non-government school sectors for capital projects that support growing enrolments, including improving non-government school facilities. This increased support for the non-government schools capital grants program extends support included in last year's Budget to deliver projects and support trades and local businesses, acknowledging the complex circumstances created by COVID-19.

The Marshall Liberal Government is committed to developing a viable, skilled workforce that is ready for the jobs of today and those of the future. We are investing \$215.5 million in TAFE SA over five years to deliver a contemporary, sector leading public provider of vocational education. The funding is in addition to \$172 million the Marshall Liberal Government has already invested into TAFE SA over the past three years, over and above the Budget left to TAFE SA by the former government.

As part of this investment, TAFE SA will also modernise its services and trade program delivery and provide greater support to lecturers, enabling the organisation to more effectively meet the needs of students, businesses and the South Australian community.

Minister for Education John Gardner said this significant investment by the Marshall Liberal Government will be key in improving education outcomes for children and young people.

"We want to create a strong future for South Australian children, and we know that means supporting their development in the first five years of a child's life. Our focus is on strengthening universal services for these children," said Minister Gardner.

"This is an exciting time for our school communities with many more children and families right across South Australia set to benefit from world class teaching and learning and, increasingly, contemporary facilities.

"These projects will also create jobs for South Australians while building a legacy of world class facilities for the benefit of our students.

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

“Our significant investment in TAFE SA will ensure it continues to innovate and modernise its services to meet the future needs of the South Australian community, industry, employers and students. This investment will enable the quality training and industry engagement reforms outlined in the Fresh Start for TAFE SA to be fully realised.”

\$1.5 million has also been provided to relocate the History Trust of South Australia from its current home at the Torrens Parade Ground to alternative heritage accommodation at Ayers House and the State Library of South Australia.

The National Motor Museum, one of the museums of the History Trust of South Australia, will also receive \$530,000 to replace air-conditioning in the Main Pavilion, which will provide a climate-controlled environment for the ongoing preservation of significant state collections and improve the visitor experience.