

Focused On What Matters Most

Victorian Budget **2025/26**

Tuesday, 20 May 2025

FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS MOST TO FAMILIES IN ALBERT PARK

The Allan Labor Government is focused on what matters most to families in Albert Park, delivering real help with the cost of living and more investment in frontline services.

We want young Victorians to have everything they need to succeed. It's why this Budget invests in upgrading schools across our state, including at South Melbourne Primary School.

A \$2.63 million investment will deliver planning and design of a new school campus – making sure our kids have the best spaces to learn.

For parents in Albert Park, every dollar counts. It's why we're making public transport free for Victorians under 18.

With free PT for under 18s, we're ensuring cheaper school runs, more affordable weekends – and one less thing for families to worry about. It'll make Victoria the first state to introduce free public transport for kids and teens, with the investment beginning 1 January 2026.

The Metro Tunnel will open this year, with twin nine-kilometre tunnels running underneath the CBD and five new underground stations at Arden, Parkville, State Library, Town Hall and Anzac.

This critical infrastructure investment will double the size of Melbourne's underground rail network and create a second rail line under the city, easing congestion in the City Loop for more services on other lines.

It'll also link the Sunbury line in the north-west with the Cranbourne-Pakenham lines in the south-east, creating a new continuous connection.

And to bring it all to life, this Budget invests \$727 million to enable services through the Metro Tunnel, and along the Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham lines – meaning more trains for local families.

Playing sport keeps kids in Albert Park active and healthy. But the cost of uniforms, equipment, memberships and more means some young Victorians are forced to sit on the sidelines.

That's why with this Budget, we're delivering more than 65,000 extra Get Active Kids vouchers for families who need it most.

These vouchers, worth up to \$200, help with the cost of sport and recreation memberships, registration fees and essential equipment and uniforms.

With more vouchers, we'll help remove the financial barrier for families, and make sure kids in Albert Park get the chance to play the sport they love.

As the home of Melbourne Sports and Aquatics Centre, Albert Park is already a hub for sports and recreation. And during the winter months, AFL, soccer and lacrosse take over the ovals.

Media contact:

That's why this Budget invests up to \$275,000 for lighting at Oval No. 11, delivering on initiatives outlined by the Master Plan. It's an investment in local sports – and local athletes.

We've helped families in Albert Park slash thousands off their power bills by switching to solar and making their homes more energy efficient. This Budget delivers more rebates for energy efficient heat pumps and solar hot water systems, so that more families can save up to \$400 on their energy bills each year.

We're also providing energy bill relief to those doing it tough across our community. This Budget delivers a \$100 Power Saving Bonus to eligible Victorian households with a concession card, in time for their August winter bills.

No one should miss out on the things that make school fun. But the cost of camps, school sports and excursions can be too much for some families in Albert Park.

That's why we're increasing the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to help families with a Health Care Card or concession card. Payments will increase from \$154 per year for eligible primary school students and \$256 per year for eligible secondary students to \$400, from 1 January 2026.

Getting in to see a GP is hard – especially one who bulk bills. That means too many families put off looking after their health.

This Budget invests a further \$18 million to enable pharmacists to treat even more Victorians with even more conditions – without a trip to the doctor for a prescription. Previously trialled as the Community Pharmacy Pilot, this investment locks it in for good – and makes it even bigger.

That means pharmacies will be able to treat more conditions with medicines usually only available with a GP script – including allergies, nausea, high blood pressure and minor wound care, with more conditions added progressively over the next two years.

We're also covering the cost of the consult – ensuring families in Albert Park can access care for free.

The Labor Government is delivering the toughest bail laws in the country.

To deal with the increasing number of alleged offenders being denied bail, this Budget invests \$727 million to ramp up capacity in Victoria's prisons, delivering almost 1,000 extra adult prison beds and 88 youth justice beds, as well as funding to attract, train and support over 700 new prison officers.

A further \$13 million will support Australia's first machete ban, alongside new powers for Victoria Police to search for dangerous weapons.

We are also investing \$150,000 in First Step – an addiction, mental health and legal services hub in the heart of St Kilda. And, to ensure that young people receive the wraparound support they need to stay engaged in education, we're supporting our Living Learning partner, Melbourne City Mission, as a part of a \$7.5 million local education initiatives package.

This Budget also includes \$3.5 million to install additional CCTV cameras in the City of Melbourne to help keep Melbourne's CBD safe.

This is a Budget – and a Government – focused on what matters most to Victorians.

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Quotes attributable to Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor

"This Budget is all about delivering on the things that matter most to families in Albert Park – whether it's help with the cost of living, improved public transport, community sport facilities, or safer streets."

"Our focus is on putting money back in the pockets of Albert Park residents, with targeted cost of living support."

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