

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education



Monday, 15 February, 2016

HELPING VICTORIAN KIDS TO EMBRACE MUSIC

The Andrews Labor Government is helping more kids enjoy music at school, by delivering its \$2 million Music in Schools election commitment.

Minister for Education James Merlino today invited 200 eligible schools across Victoria to apply for grants to buy musical instruments under stage 1 of the program.

Mr Merlino launched the Music in Schools instrument grants program at River Gum Primary School, in Hampton Park, which is eligible for a grant of up to \$5000 for musical instruments under the program.

The \$2 million Music in Schools program comprises:

- \$1.6 million for professional training for hundreds of Victorian teachers so that schools without strong, school-wide programs can establish quality music programs.
- \$400,000 in grants over two stages for schools to buy instruments.
- \$200,000 so trainee teachers at university studying to become primary teachers can complete musical education training.

Hundreds of Victorian teachers have already taken advantage of the professional training offered by Music in Schools and administered by Musical Futures Australia. More are due to undergo training in the coming months.

The Labor Government is investing almost \$4 billion to build the Education State so that every kid has the chance to succeed – at learning and at life. This includes increasing opportunities for all students to experience quality music education, regardless of their school and background, through the Music in Schools initiative.

The Education State is backed by a range of ambitious but achievable targets, including increasing the number on Victorian students reaching the highest levels of achievement in the arts over the next 10 years.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

“Research shows exposure to music education results in better grades, better results and better attendance.”

“We’ll bring music lessons to every Victorian school and we’ll help them with the cost of instruments and training because no child should miss out.”

“These grants will help more Victorian students fully participate in school music programs. We’re also providing \$1.6 million for professional music training for teachers, as a way to support schools that want to set up music programs.”

Quote attributable to Member for Narre Warren South Judith Graley

“It’s no secret that Victorians love their music and we want to make sure that every Victorian student can enjoy music at school.”