Giving children the best possible start in life

Support and services for children and young people with a disability have received a massive $108.6 million funding boost.

There is more funding for:

- Early childhood intervention services which identify children with a disability or a developmental delay before they start school
- School children with disabilities, and
- Professional development for teachers who work with these students.

The $108.6 million includes:

- $38.1 million over two years to expand the Program for Students with Disabilities to meet increased demand
- $38.4 million to increase funding to Early Childhood Intervention Services, which provides support to families with children with a disability or developmental delay in the years before school
- $18.5 million over three years has been provided to meet increased growth in the Students with Disabilities Transport program, which currently provides transport for more than 7100 students attending special schools
- $4.4 million to establish “satellite” classrooms in partnership with special schools for students with intellectual disabilities at mainstream government schools and inclusion support programs for students with autism
- $9.2 million over four years to establish a Victorian Deaf Education Institute to support and train teachers working with deaf students.

This State Budget also includes $2.5 million over four years to provide teachers and early childhood professionals with specialist mental health training. This initiative includes funding 70 Mental Health Graduate Diplomas for Teaching Professions at Monash University.