INVESTING IN NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS ACROSS VICTORIA

Victorian families with children born in the recent baby boom are among the big winners in the 2010 State Budget as the Brumby Labor Government surpasses its promise to rebuild, renovate or extend 500 government schools by 2011.

The Treasurer, John Lenders, said a $469.5 million boost to education and early childhood development would ensure every child living in regional Victoria had the best start in life.

“The Brumby Labor Government is securing the lifestyles of regional and rural Victorian families by building them the best education system for their children,” Mr Lenders said.

“We understand Victorian parents want the best for their children, that’s why we are rebuilding, renovating or extending every school in every community across the whole State.

“Like all Victorian parents, we want Victorian students to learn in the best possible classrooms and to learn from the best possible teachers – that’s why education is the Brumby Labor Government’s number-one priority.”

Mr Lenders said $271.3 million invested in the 2010 State Budget meant the Brumby Labor Government would exceed its promise to rebuild, renovate or extend 500 government schools by 2011 and upgrade the bushfire resistance of schools in fire prone areas.

Bushfire resistant schools will comply with the new bushfire standards for Victoria and include retrofitting of government schools with fire doors and shutters and water deluge and fire sprinkler systems.

“Victorian families want the best quality schools close to home, that's why the Brumby Labor Government is delivering on the final tranche of our $1.9 billion Victorian Schools Plan,” Mr Lenders said.

“We are making sure our schools are ready to provide 21st century students with a modern education. Since 2007, 553 school building projects have been funded as part of the $1.9 billion Victorian Schools Plan – 53 more than promised.

"Last year, the Brumby Labor Government brought forward our school building investment as part of our economic strategy to secure jobs during the Global Financial Crisis.

“This year – as Victoria leads a global economic recovery – the Brumby Labor Government is not only delivering Victorian families what we promised on school buildings, we are going above and beyond.”

Mr Lenders said the 2010 State Budget investment in school buildings came on top of $104.1 million from the Brumby Labor Government announced in December – funding brought forward to complement Commonwealth Building the Education Revolution projects.
The Brumby Labor Government’s 2010 State Budget delivers $230.3 million in new Victorian Schools Plan (VSP) funding, including:

- **$64.3 million** for 11 school modernisation projects, including at Bendigo Senior Secondary College and Colmadai Primary School;
- **$107 million** for nine school regeneration projects to revitalise school communities and provide modern facilities for new and better teaching and learning including the Bendigo Education Plan, Corio Norlane Regeneration, Ouyen Regeneration and Western Heights Regeneration;
- **$10.5 million** to help secure the future of six small rural schools including Garfield Primary School, Halls Gap Primary School, Lockwood South Primary School, Tawonga Primary School, Wandin Yallock Primary School and Woady Yaloak Primary School;
- **$8 million** to purchase land in growth areas, as well as land for Echuca West Primary School, which is part of the regeneration of schools in Echuca;
- **$1.5 million** to rebuild Toolamba Primary School, which was destroyed by fire in February 2010; and
- **$1 million** to undertake planning for Daylesford Secondary College (stage 2) and Ballarat Secondary College East Campus (stage 2).

“The Brumby Labor Government is standing up for families by investing in our schools and communities in our regional cities and our small rural towns,” Mr Lenders said.

“Our Government understands how important access to high quality schools is to Victorian families – and we understand that building new schools is an investment in the future of our regions.”

In addition to exceeding its commitment to rebuild, renovate or extend 500 schools in this term of Government, Mr Lenders said the Brumby Labor Government had also completed its $28 million commitment to fund new computers.

“An investment of **$7 million** will deliver more than 7 000 computers to government schools to give young Victorians the information technology skills they need to seize the opportunities of the future,” Mr Lenders said.

As part of its **Closing the Gap** strategy to improve outcomes for Indigenous Victorians, the Brumby Labor Government is contributing **$1.7 million** towards the development of eight new academies for Indigenous students.

The $4.2 million initiative, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government and philanthropic organisations, will establish five football academies and three dance academies for Indigenous students at government schools in Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Bairnsdale, Warrnambool, Ballarat, Eaglehawk and Mooroopna.

Since 2006, Labor has invested in the education of Victorian students by:

- Funding the construction of 20 new schools in growth areas. This includes 11 new schools through the **Partnerships Victoria in Schools** public-private partnership – five have opened in 2010 and six more are under construction and will open in 2011;
- Funding the construction of two new select-entry schools, with one already open;
- Providing funding to secure the future of 40 small rural schools by replacing relocatables with permanent facilities;
- Funding the replacement of three special schools and the modernisation of six others;
- Funding 30 new tech wings in secondary schools; and
- Funding regeneration projects, including in Bendigo, Western Heights, Colac, Echuca, Kyabram and Wodonga.
Funding Announced and Allocated in 2010 State Budget

### Regenerations
- Altona/Bayside Education Precinct
- Bendigo Education Plan
- Corio Norlane Regeneration
- Heidelberg Regeneration
- Keysborough/Springvale Regeneration
- Knox Regeneration
- Ouyen Regeneration
- Thomastown Regeneration
- Western Heights Regeneration

### Secure the Future of Small Rural Schools
- Garfield Primary School
- Hallis Gap Primary School
- Lockwood South Primary School
- Tawonga Primary School
- Wandin Yallock Primary School
- Woody Yaloak Primary School

### Replacement Schools
- Glenroy Specialist School

### Modernisations
- Ashburton Primary School
- Bendigo Senior Secondary College
- Comadai Primary School
- Collingwood College
- Eitham East Primary School
- Essex Heights Primary School
- Noble Park Special Developmental School
- Northern School For Autism
- Parkmore Primary School
- Overport Primary School
- Wantima Heights School (Eastern Autistic School)

### Fire Reinstatement
- Toolamba Primary School

### Planning funding
- McKinnon Secondary College (Stage 2)
- Bellaratta Secondary College East Campus (Stage 2)
- Daylesford Secondary College (Stage 2)
- Thornbury Secondary College

### New Schools in Growth Areas
- Manor Lakes P-12 Specialist College
- Mount Ridley P-12 College
- Tarneit 10-12 College
- Timbarra P-9 College

### Overall Funding Announced in 2009 and Allocated in 2010 State Budget

#### Modernisation
- Wattle Park Primary School

#### School Improvement Program Continued…
- Mansfield Primary School
- Melton Specialist School
- Metung Primary School
- Minyip Primary School
- Mount Beauty Primary School
- Myrtleford P-12 College (interim Name)
- Naranga Special School
- Nicholson Primary School
- Nillima Primary School
- Norris Bank Primary School
- Nowa Nowa Primary School
- Silvan Primary School
- Sunshine Special Developmental school
- Tallgaroopna Primary School
- Tambo Upper Primary School
- Toolangi Primary School
- Toolern Vale and District Primary School
- University Park Primary School
- Western English Language School
- Woodside Primary School
- Yarraville Special Developmental School
- Yellingbo Primary School
- Tering Primary School

Mr Lenders said the 2010 State Budget delivered an **$82.6 million** comprehensive package to meet the growing demand for early childhood services across Victoria.

“Regional Victorians are proud of their communities and want to preserve their lifestyle, that’s why the Brumby Labor Government is investing in providing them with the best education for their children,” Mr Lenders said.

“Our Government understands that Victorian parents want the best possible start in life for their children and that’s why we are delivering more kinder places, increasing the skills of our early childhood workforce and building new and expanded facilities.”
The Brumby Labor Government’s 2010 State Budget for early childhood includes:

- **$63.1 million** over five years for an additional 3590 kindergarten places;
- **$14 million** for building and expanding kindergartens and children’s centres;
- **$3.5 million** over three years for early childhood workforce initiatives; and
- **$2 million** over four years for the Maternal and Child Health Line and Parent Line.

"The Brumby Labor Government is providing the best possible facilities and services for our growing suburbs and regional towns that had been touched by Victoria’s recent baby boom," Mr Lenders said.

"The number of babies born in Victoria is more than 20 per cent higher – or about 12 000 more babies – than 10 years ago, with more than 71 000 Victorian babies born in 2009.

“Each of these babies deserves the best start in life as they head towards kindergarten age, so we are delivering 3 590 extra kindergarten places, building on the 4 000 extra places funded in last year’s budget. This package will ensure a place is funded for every child enrolled in kinder in the year before school.”

Together with the boost to kindergarten places, the Brumby Labor Government has committed $14 million to extend its successful four-year $38 million Children’s Capital Program.

The Children’s Capital Program provides grants to support the construction of integrated children’s centres, which provide a one-stop-shop for parents to access children’s services including childcare, kinder, maternal and child health and early intervention services. The program also includes renovating and upgrading existing community-based early years facilities.

The Brumby Labor Government’s support of the early childhood workforce has also been strengthened with funding of $3.5 million over three years to support mentoring, leadership courses and professional development for early childhood professionals.

Mr Lenders said the funding complemented significant recent workforce reforms including new workplace agreements which give Victoria’s graduate early childhood teachers salary parity with graduate primary and secondary school teachers.

“The Brumby Labor Government is investing in building a highly qualified early childhood workforce, because we understand it is an important way to ensure Victoria’s children reach their potential,” he said.

“We are working to make a career in the early childhood workforce more attractive and our actions are supporting thousands of people working in early childhood to upgrade their skills and qualifications.”

In another baby boom boost, the Brumby Labor Government has also increased funding to the Maternal and Child Health Line and the Parent Line by $2 million.

Mr Lenders said a massive **$108.6 million** package would provide children and young Victorians with a disability every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

“Parents of children with disabilities told us they wanted improved support and access to early intervention services and the Brumby Labor Government has listened and taken action,” Mr Lenders said.

The package to support children with disabilities includes:

- **$38.4 million** over four years to increase funding for Early Childhood Intervention Services, which supports families of children with a disability or a developmental delay before they reach school age, through services such as speech therapy and physiotherapy;
• $38.1 million over two years to meet increasing demand for the Program for Students with Disabilities, particularly in the areas of autism and intellectual disability. This program provides funding for schools to meet students' individual learning needs, such as teacher support and allied health support like physiotherapy and speech therapy;

• $18.5 million in additional funding over three years to provide transport for more than 1 700 students attending special schools;

• $9.2 million over four years for a new Victorian Deaf Education Institute in Melbourne to support and train teachers working with deaf students in schools across the state;

• $4.4 million to establish, in partnership with specialist schools, 'satellite' classrooms at local primary and secondary schools. These purpose-built on-site facilities will have specialist staff to meet students' additional needs but will mean students can be part of the mainstream school community. The funding will also provide additional inclusion support programs for students with autism; and

• $2.5 million over four years to provide teachers and early childhood professionals with specialist mental health training- including funding 70 Mental Health Graduate Diplomas for Teaching Professions at Monash University.

“The increase in funding for Early Childhood Intervention Services represents the single biggest increase in investment in these services since 2003. These services include physiotherapy, speech therapy and special education,” Mr Lenders said.

Mr Lenders said the ‘satellite’ classrooms would be beneficial to students with disabilities and to the broader school community.

"This 'satellite' approach means children with an intellectual disability can participate in mainstream subjects but there are also separate facilities and staff onsite to cater to their special needs," he said.