



# Steve Dimopoulos MP

State Member for Oakleigh District

## Proudly Local

# Spring Community News



## VICTORIAN HEART HOSPITAL – CLAYTON

Our Victorian Heart Hospital. Brand new. Built in Clayton. The first of its kind in Australia. Internal fitout is underway and the hospital is due to open for patients in a few months.

There's over 200 beds and every year there can be around **2,000 open heart operations**, 108,000 cardiac consultations and capacity for 28,000 cardiac emergency presentations.

**A Public Hospital – funded and built by the Victorian Government.**

We're building new hospitals all over Victoria, establishing **priority primary care centres**, expanding emergency departments, converting private hospitals to public for more surgeries, creating more mental health beds and recruiting thousands more nurses and doctors. We're also securing more ambulances, paramedics and ambulance stations. All up we've added \$12 billion to the health system to recover from the pandemic.

At the same time we're building new train lines like the Metro Tunnel and the Suburban Rail Loop, removing 85 level crossings including in Glen Huntly, investing in schools and TAFE, expanding roads and creating tens of thousands of jobs. **And we now have our lowest unemployment rate in nearly 50 years.**

There are challenges here, across Australia and all over the world because of the the pandemic. But again, we're investing to provide support where it's required. To deliver the services and care we need.

As always, please let me know if I can help on any State Government issues.



# COST OF LIVING HELP

## SOLAR AND BATTERY REBATES

We've got a legislated commitment of 50% renewable energy by 2030. You can get a rebate for installing solar panels, a solar battery or solar hot water. This is for both residential (including rental properties) and businesses. Learn more at [www.solar.vic.gov.au](http://www.solar.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 376 393.

## SICK PAY GUARANTEE

Guaranteed five days of sick pay for workers in casual and insecure work in eligible industries. We'll do the admin and make the payment direct to workers. You shouldn't have to choose between a day's pay and your health. Learn more or sign up at [www.service.vic.gov.au](http://www.service.vic.gov.au)

## FREE L AND P LICENCES

L and P licences are now free. New learner drivers will save up to \$51.40 in learner licensing and online testing fees. Probationary drivers will save up to \$133.30 in probationary license and online hazard perception testing fees. Learn more at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## KINDER FREE. PERMANENTLY

Starting in 2023, Kinder will be free for every Victorian child. Permanently. This applies to both 3 and 4 year old Kinder and will mean a saving of up to \$2,500 per child. In 2025, the rollout begins for 30 hours per week of 4 year old Pre-Prep. Learn more at [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

## FREE TAFE COURSES

There are now over 60 free TAFE courses providing essential skills. Many of these courses are available locally at our own Holmesglen TAFE. Over 100,000 Victorians have taken advantage of this program since it was introduced in 2019. Visit [www.tafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.tafe.vic.gov.au) or call 13 18 23.

## SAFE DRIVER REWARD

The Safe Driver Discount. We're bringing it back in October. If you haven't incurred any demerit points or committed a road safety offence in the 3 years before your licence expiry, you'll get a 25% discount on your licence renewal. Learn more at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)



WE'RE MAKING LEARNER PERMITS  
AND PROBATIONARY LICENCES

**FREE**



WE'RE GIVING SAFE DRIVERS

**25% OFF**  
LICENCE RENEWALS



## YOUR \$250 POWER SAVING BONUS

Every single household with a residential electricity account is now eligible for a \$250 Power Saving Bonus. All you need to do is compare your current electricity plan to find a better deal. The Victorian Government created the Energy Compare website so you can easily compare offers from your current electricity retailer and others who provide the same service. Around 70% of those who compare plans find a better deal. The savings can be significant.

To apply, just visit [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au), compare your current plan and submit an application. You are not obligated to switch providers. For more information please call 1800 000 832. This power saving bonus will be in place until 30 June 2023.

**Steve Dimopoulos. Local Update.**

# LOCAL PROJECTS. LOCAL JOBS



## Suburban Rail Loop Construction Starts

The biggest transport project to be built in Victoria – ever. The Suburban Rail Loop. Construction has officially started. **Six new underground stations** at Cheltenham, Clayton, Monash Uni, Glen Waverley, Burwood and Box Hill. Twin 26km tunnels. 8000 local jobs during construction.

A world class – cross Melbourne transport project – connections to work, health, education, retail centres, family and friends. New recreation spaces and community facilities. **A project for our future.**



## Glen Huntly Level Crossings – Gone in 2023

You may have seen that work has ramped up at Glen Huntly Level Crossings. Both Neerim Road and Glen Huntly Road crossings will be gone next year. **A year ahead of schedule.** And with a brand new station.

**For the first time in 144 years, our whole area will be level crossing free.** 65 crossings have already been removed across Victoria – 85 in total will have been removed by 2025 – including so many locally. Creating safer, more connected local communities.



## Victorian Tunnelling Centre – Chadstone

Where better than Victoria to have Australia's first training facility in construction and tunnelling – and it's right here at our local Holmesglen TAFE in Chadstone. **We built this because skills matter.**

Up to 5,000 workers and students every year. We're creating leaders in tunnel boring, innovation and underground construction. That's skills we can put to use on major projects in Victoria. And it means we can use home grown talent to pursue even more construction locally.



## Metro Tunnel – 1 Year Ahead of Schedule

It really is taking shape now! Construction that's going on under our feet. Our new Metro Tunnel. 5 new train stations. Twin 9km tunnels. Ready to open in 2025 – one year ahead of schedule.

**This means more stations, more trains, more often.** And lots of our new locally built high capacity trains are already running. Projects like these are exactly what we need to create superior transport connections and build on our reputation as one of the world's great cities.



## Murrumbeena Park Upgrade Finished Soon

The Murrumbeena Park upgrade is almost complete. It's a major redevelopment that when open will deliver modern facilities for the clubs as well as for our community. It includes meeting, multi-purpose rooms and a large seated function room.

This is a proud partnership between the Victorian Government, Federal Government, Glen Eira Council – and working closely with the amazing local clubs and community.

**Steve Dimopoulos. Local Update.**

# SCHOOLS. TAFE. KINDER.



Major school upgrades continue. Including at Oakleigh Primary, Glen Huntly Primary, South Oakleigh College, Bentleigh Secondary College, Glen Eira College, Sacred Heart Primary and Oakleigh South Primary School.

Since 2015, we have seen the biggest investment in schools and school upgrades in our history.

We are especially proud that **every single special school in Victoria** has either been upgraded or has been funded for upgrade. Because every student matters.

In 2023, **we're making kinder free – permanently**. That's a saving of up to \$2500 per child. But just as importantly, it's a recognition of the value of early childhood learning.

And in TAFE, there are now over 60 totally free courses. Skills matter – now more than ever. **Protecting and supporting TAFE** creates so many opportunities for our future.



## MAJOR HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE BOOST



As a direct result of the pandemic, health systems, hospitals, ambulances and staff are under significant strain – here in Victoria, across Australia and all over the world. We recognise this – and we recently made **the biggest investment in our history for recovery**.

Billions of dollars to recruit more nurses, doctors and staff, build more hospitals, establish primary care centres, purchase new ambulances, employ more paramedics and upgrade more emergency departments.

## PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH



**If you would like to discuss something regarding the State Government, please be in touch.**

You can contact me by phone on 9568 2456, visit my office at Ground Floor, 3 Chester Street, Oakleigh or via email at [steve.dimopoulos@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.dimopoulos@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**I also conduct regular outdoor weekend offices.**

Keep an eye on your letterbox for the dates and times in your area.

