

CDS CASHBACK

Our Container Deposit Scheme is reducing the state's litter by up to half while putting money back in the pockets of Victorians.

People can now return their eligible cans, bottles, and containers for a 10-cent refund at refund points across Victoria.

Victorians can also choose to donate their refund to a charity, local school, community organisation including sports clubs registered with the scheme.

To learn more about CDS Vic and to find the nearest refund point closest to you, visit cdsvic.org.au/locations



SICK PAY GUARANTEE FOR MORE CASUAL WORKERS

More than 400 new jobs are now eligible for the nation-leading Sick Pay Guarantee – giving thousands more workers in casual and contract jobs the opportunity to access up to 38 hours a year of sick and carer's pay.

This includes casual, contract and self-employed:

- community support workers
- taxi and rideshare drivers
- arts workers

- childcare and early childhood workers
- fitness instructors
- tourism and outdoor recreation workers
- factory workers
- fruit pickers
- hairdressers

To check your eligibility and sign up to the scheme visit vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee

VETERANS CARD - VICTORIA

The Veterans Card – Victoria is a token of appreciation, acknowledging the remarkable contributions and sacrifices made by veterans in ensuring the safety, freedom, and peace we enjoy today.

The Veterans Card - Victoria entitles all past and present ADF members living in Victoria to discounts and benefits including:

- \$100 off light vehicle rego
- free trailer and caravan rego
- free marine licence
- fishing licence exemption
- free transport on Anzac and Remembrance Days
- veteran employment programs

To apply visit service.vic.gov.au



SKILLS & TRAINING

Free TAFE – over 80 courses and 10,000 more places. When we came to government, we promised to save TAFE, reopen campuses, and start Free TAFE and that's what we did. Today there are more than 80 courses on the Free TAFE list and it's helping thousands of Victorians get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

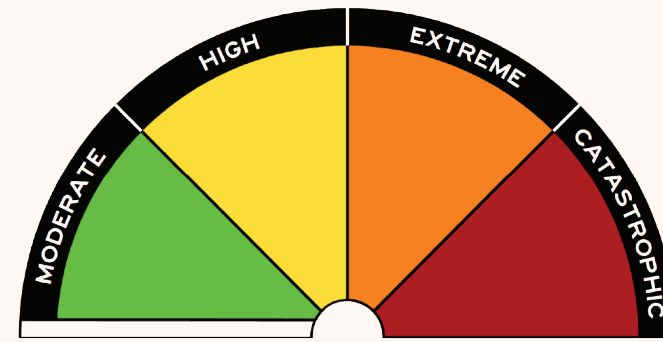
Expanding Free TAFE to every Victorian, investing \$186 million to broaden the eligibility criteria for subsidised courses. It means all Victorians can study for in demand jobs whether you already have a higher qualification or not.



PREPARE YOURSELF & YOUR PROPERTY FOR THE UPCOMING FIRE SEASON

We don't live in regional or rural Victoria, but we still have risks of fires from our grasslands and the **Plenty Gorge**

Parkland area. That's why if you live close to these areas, it is important to be prepared.



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

PLAN

Making informed decisions is vital to your safety during a fire. Now is the best time to understand your fire risk, plan and prepare your property.

A written, and preferably well-practised plan, will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis.

Your plan needs to outline:

- Actions leading up to the bushfire season
 - Actions during the bushfire season
 - Actions leading up to fire risk days
 - Actions on fire risk days
- You can download the Bushfire survival planning template
- Leaving early (PDF) from cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan

PREPARE

Make sure you understand the Fire Danger Ratings.

Over summer, you'll need to check the ratings daily to understand the fire risk in your area.

Remember, as ratings increase, so does your risk from fire.

To check the Central District's daily Fire Danger Rating, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings or call 1800 226 226.

You can also monitor the fire risk in your area by downloading the VicEmergency App or visiting emergency.vic.gov.au.

Everyone who lives near the Plenty Gorge Parklands or Grassland areas needs to prepare their property for summer fires.

- Keep grass cut to less than 10cm
 - Keep gutters clear of leaf litter
 - Remove any flammable items from around the home (such as doormats and combustible outdoor furniture)
 - Cut back overhanging branches
 - Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark
 - Prune shrubs away from branches
- To help you plan ahead, visit fireplanner.vic.gov.au

ACT

Don't leave things until the last minute.

If you know a hot, dry, windy day is coming, act:

- Remove doormats, combustible outdoor furniture and other items from decks, up against, or under the home
- Move pot plants a few metres from the home
- Double check that gas bottles are anchored securely with the relief valves pointing away from any flammable materials
- Check your gutters to make sure leaves haven't built up
- Make sure you remove any fuels from around your windows and doors.
- Ensure your insurance is sufficient and current.

Leave early

- Leaving early means leaving the area before a fire starts – not when you can see flames or smell smoke
- Leaving early means avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury or death
- If you live right next to grassland and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back from the fire to stay safe
- Keep in mind that grassfires can start and spread quickly, especially on days when the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, or when there are total fire bans.



LILY D'AMBROSIO MP for Mill Park

Always listening. Always doing.

- Shop 2/30 Oleander Drive, Mill Park VIC 3082
- lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au
- 9422 5171
- LilyDAmbrosioMP
- @LilyDAmbrosioMP
- @lilydambrosiomp

Authorised by Lily D' Ambrosio, Shop 2/30 Oleander Dr, Mill Park. Printed by IVE, 26 Beyer Road, Braeside.



NORTHERN NEWS SUMMER 2024

LILY D'AMBROSIO MP for Mill Park

Always listening. Always doing.



Welcome to the Summer Edition of Northern News – my Mill Park community newsletter.

Happy New Year! I hope you have been able to enjoy the holiday period with your loved ones.

Last year, the Allan Labor Government hit the ground running to deliver on our election commitments.

It means delivering commitments such as the start of the Plenty River Trail works, upgrading Epping Road, new and expanded local health services, and so much more.

You'll find alongside this newsletter a copy of my 2024 Calendar.

I'll continue to advocate strongly for our community across Mill Park, South Morang, Wollert, and Epping, and if you need assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact me via my office.

Warm regards,

Lily D'Ambrosio MP | State Member for Mill Park

Representing the communities of South Morang and parts of Mill Park, Epping and Wollert.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

NORTHERN HOSPITAL

Planning has started to build a new emergency department (ED) for the Northern Hospital. When completed, it will add up to 70 extra treatment spaces and a new tower for inpatients with more than 100 beds, dedicated waiting and treatment spaces for families as well as an alcohol, and other drugs hub, hosting a total of 200 treatment spaces for emergency patients.

To find out more visit: vhba.vic.gov.au/health/hospitals/hospital-infrastructure-delivery-fund.

Residents in Mill Park electorate now have access to public fertility care close to home following the recent opening of Northern Hospital's Public Fertility Care Service. The Northern Hospital clinic provides eligible patients with access to a range of fertility services including specialist consultations, diagnostic tests, ultrasounds, medications, and in-cycle management. This Australian-first public IVF initiative is available to local families thanks to our government's investment of more than \$120 million, including an additional \$49.9 million in the last Victorian Budget.

To find out more visit: health.vic.gov.au/public-health/public-fertility-care-services.

MAKING NURSING & MIDWIFERY DEGREES FREE

We are backing Victoria's healthcare system with free university and specialist training for thousands of nurses and midwives.

More than 17,000 nurses and midwives will be recruited and trained as part of a massive hiring and upskilling initiative. More than 10,000 students will have the cost of their nursing or midwifery undergraduate studies paid for, while scholarships will be available for thousands more who complete postgraduate studies in areas of need including intensive care, cancer care, paediatrics, and nurse practitioner specialities.

All new domestic students enrolling in a professional-entry nursing or midwifery course in 2023 and 2024 will receive a scholarship of up to \$16,500 to cover course costs.

Students will receive \$9,000 while they study, and the remaining \$7,500 if they work in Victorian public health services for two years.

To find out more visit health.vic.gov.au/news/studying-nursing-and-midwifery-free-from-2023

COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN THE MILL PARK ELECTORATE

Sometimes it's difficult to get in to see a GP, especially one who bulk bills. And if you've woken up feeling sick, it's not much help if you can't see a doctor for more than a week. It's even worse for women, who end up reaching into their pocket more often just to get more of the pill. That's why we are funding a 12-month pilot program to expand the role of community pharmacists.

Four pharmacies in the local area are participating in this pilot program and they can now treat common skin conditions, administer travel vaccinations, treat straightforward urinary tract infections (UTIs) and reissue prescriptions for contraceptives. This all means faster and cheaper healthcare for all Victorians.

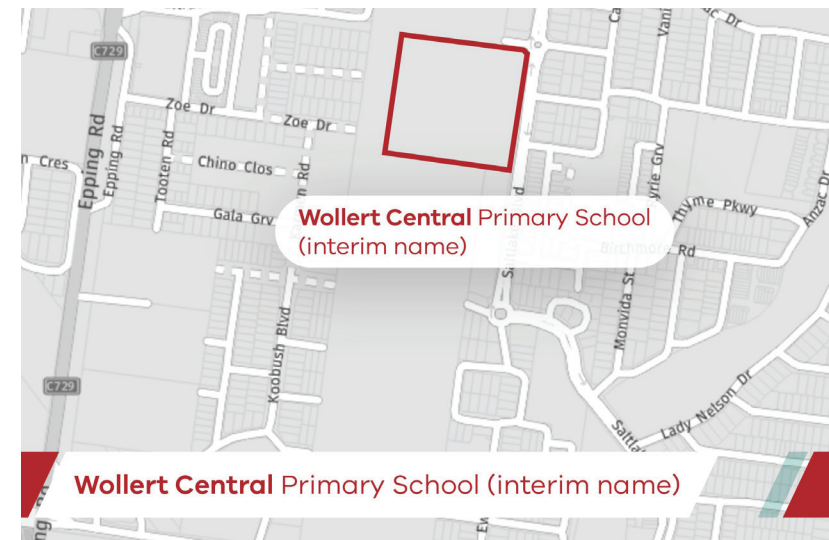
The pharmacies participating locally are:

- **Greenbrook Pharmacy** - 6/53 McDonalds Rd, Epping
- **Fullife Pharmacy Rivergum** - Shop 1, Rivergum Village, 538 Plenty Rd, Mill Park
- **Fullife Pharmacy Mill Park** - The Stables Centre, Shop 50/314-360 Childs Rd, Mill Park
- **Mill Park Superclinic Pharmacy** - 250 Childs Rd, Mill Park

To find out the locations visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/community-pharmacist-pilot#find-a-community-pharmacist-pilot-service

EDUCATION

COMING SOON... ANOTHER NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WOLLERT



110 Saltlake Boulevard, Wollert

We're building a new primary school in Wollert. The Wollert Central Primary School (interim name) will open in Wollert in 2025 as part of a \$2 billion investment in schools across Victoria.

MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE GETS A NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Thanks to the Allan Labor Government's \$11.6 million investment in Mill Park Secondary, the school's new 400-seat Performing Arts Centre is almost ready and due to open in early 2024.

NEW SCHOOL OPENED

Families living in Wollert now have access to a new Secondary School, the Wollert Secondary College opened last year. The Wollert Central Secondary shared in \$763.27 million in funding for land acquisition and construction.

WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

Our Allan Labor Government promised to establish a new Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Hub in Mill Park, and it is **NOW OPEN**. This new hub located at DPV Mill Park provides healthcare services and improved access to sexual and reproductive healthcare for women and girls.

Delivering care closer to home, the hub will also help patients avoid long-term health issues by reducing delays in treatment, also alleviating pressure on local health systems by decreasing presentations and demand on hospitals. The Mill Park Sexual and Reproductive Health Hub was delivered through the Labor Government's \$153 million investment in the Victorian Budget 2023/24 to change the way women's health issues are treated in Victoria.

Free pads and tampons are now available in many public places - including 1,500 sanitary dispenser machines installed in up to 700 public sites across Victoria, including courts, TAFEs, libraries and train stations.

We are funding a **Women's free and confidential information service**. The 1800 My Options website and phone line is now available. It is a free and confidential information service for advice on women's contraception, termination of pregnancy, and sexual health options.

Visit 1800myoptions.org.au to get the help you need.

STUDYING TO BECOME A TEACHER IN SECONDARY SCHOOL NOW FREE

We are making studying to become a teacher in secondary schools in Victoria FREE, with scholarships covering the cost of degrees to help boost our school workforce.

That's why we're investing:

- \$93.2 million for scholarships to make studying a secondary teaching degree completely free for around 4,000 future teachers each year. The grants are now available and we'll be available until 31 December 2025.
- \$95.7 million to expand the successful Australian-first Career Start initiative to support more graduate teachers in government schools.
- \$27 million for the Targeted Financial Incentives Program that provides \$50,000 to assist teachers from Victoria, interstate and overseas relocate to hard-to-staff positions in government schools.

Visit vic.gov.au/teachthefuture-become-a-teacher



Visit to The Lakes South Morang (Primary Campus)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

NEW KINDER IN WOLLERT

We're building Wollert Central Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) next to the Wollert Central Primary School (interim name) located at **110 Saltlake Boulevard, Wollert**. Having the kindergarten and school together will help local children make a smooth transition into primary school and will also make drop-off time simpler for families.

NEW EARLY PARENTING CENTRE IN SOUTH MORANG

The new Whittlesea Early Parenting Centre, located at **34 Anchorage Drive, South Morang** is now open and ready to welcome local families who need early parenting support. The new centre features 10 residential family units and four day-stay places, providing both short-term and longer residential stay programs to improve the health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes of children.

Families can bring multiple children or accommodate an older sibling, grandparent, or other carer during their stay. The purpose-built centre also includes kitchen and dining areas, playrooms and outdoor play areas. The 12 new and upgraded Early Parenting Centres across Victoria are part of the Labor Government's \$148 million investment to expand our early parenting service network.

FREE KINDER FOR THREE-AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Thanks to our Government's \$1.8 billion investment in early childhood education more than 2,750 early childhood services across the state and in the Mill Park electorate are offering now Free Kinder for 3 and 4-year-olds.

This means:

- 5 to 15 hours weekly funding for kids in Three-Year-Old Kinder

HOUSING

PROTECTING RENTER'S RIGHTS

As part of our government's housing statement, we'll:

- Restrict rent increases between successive fixed-term leases. This means that if agents or landlords are issuing a new lease after they've evicted previous tenants on their first fixed-term one, they'll have to offer the property at the same rent for at least 12 months.
- Ban all types of rental bidding
- Establish the Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria - a one-stop shop for renters, agents, and landlords to resolve tenancy disputes over rent, damages, repairs and bonds.
- Build a portable rental bond scheme, so tenants can carry their rental bond from one property straight over to another.
- Extend notice of rent increase and notice to vacate periods to 90 days.
- Make rental applications easier by standardising rental application and giving renters a clear idea of what they can expect to be asked for during the application process.
- Limit the kind of information agents or landlords can keep on file, and how long they can keep it for.

Find out more: vic.gov.au/housing-statement

- 15 hours weekly funding for kids in Four-Year-Old Kinder
 - Priority for vulnerable and disadvantaged children for earlier access, no matter where they live
 - Brand new local kindergartens helping families avoid the dreaded double drop-off
- Find out more vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder
- The Allan Labor Government is acting fast to address the Early Childhood skills shortage, and train up the 11,000 new workers that are needed by 2032 to fill the soaring demand.

We are investing **more than \$6.28 million in early childhood training and skills projects across Victoria**. These grants will help more people begin a career in one of the state's most in-demand industries, with improved recruitment approaches, professional development training and more culturally and linguistically diverse resources.



Visit to the new Early Parenting Centre in South Morang with Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

GRANNY FLATS ARE IN - AND PERMITS ARE OUT

We changed the rules so you can build a small second home on your property without a permit, as long as it is less than 60 square metres.

It means extra space as your family grows, or somewhere to stay when the kids visit.

It's all part of the Housing Statement, which sets a target to build 800,000 new homes over the next decade.

Because when you build more homes, they're more affordable.

Read about it here

premier.vic.gov.au/good-decisions-made-faster



ROADS

The **Epping Road Upgrade** is making great progress, and when finished in 2025, it will help you get home safer and sooner.

We're adding extra lanes on Epping Road between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue, installing new traffic lights at Park Street, upgrading intersections, building better walking and cycling connections, slashing congestion, and improving travel times for more than 28,000 drivers.

I know that road works on the Epping Road Upgrade can sometimes inconvenience locals, and I would like to thank road users and residents for their patience while this important project is being built.



Visit to Epping Road with Premier Jacinta Allan & Bronwyn Halfpenny MP

PARKS & RECREATION



Start of works on the Plenty River Trail

- \$500,000 towards the upgrade of Hillsview Soccer Pavilion to boost female participation. The pavilion upgrade will include an additional change room for female players and greater storage at Hillsview Recreation Reserve.

LOWERING YOUR ENERGY BILLS

The SEC is back

The State Electricity Commission (SEC) is officially back, and set to lead Victoria's renewable energy transition with a focus on supply, homes and saving Victorian households thousands of dollars per year people.

To ensure that the SEC remains in public hands we are enshrining the SEC in Victoria's Constitution - preventing future governments from destroying it - so that Victorians can always rely on the SEC to put their best interests first.

We've launched the SEC's 10 year Strategic Plan, to put power back in the hands of Victorians and help slash your power bills and our emissions. In December, we announced our first project - a 600MW big battery near Melton that will allow more renewable energy to be built and lower energy prices.

The SEC will support the creation of more than 59,000 jobs.

The SEC will become a trusted 'one-stop shop' - stepping you through how best to electrify your home and put extra money in your pocket.

We know that residents of an existing detached home (without solar) will spend around \$4400 a year on energy bills, compared with around \$3000 per year after complete electrification. That means a saving of around a \$1400 a year by going electric. Savings can increase to more than \$2700 a year with solar installed - or 60% reduction in your energy bills.

- \$800,000 to establish a new dog park in Wollert
- \$20.4 million in Plenty Gorge Park on Wurundjeri Country to build a link in the Plenty River Trail. The new multi-use trail will link University Hill Bundoora- through Mill Park and South Morang - to Doreen. We are also upgrading the Hawkstowe Picnic Area and uplifting Nioka Bush Camp.
- The Granite Hills Major Community Park works have officially started! We invested \$2.5 million in this \$5 million project to deliver a new regional-level public park within the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland that will feature:
 - A regional scale playground including junior and senior playgrounds, nature play area, giant slides, and flying fox
 - Barbecue facilities, drinking fountains and custom-designed picnic shelters
 - Community social gathering spaces
 - Changing Place Facility
 - Shared paths

Solar Home Rebates Expanded

More than 270,000 households, including 5,000 in the Mill Park electorate, have installed rooftop solar panels saving up to \$1,400 per year on their energy bills.

If you have already taken advantage of our government's Solar Home Rebates and interest-free loans you are now able to access the program again if you have moved to a new property.

Households with a solar system that is more than 10 years old are now able to access rebates and interest-free loans to replace ageing systems that are no longer fit for purpose.

Income threshold for rebates lifted to \$210,000 per household making 85% of Victorian homeowners are eligible for a rebate.

Interest free loans for up to \$8,800 for household batteries available.

To find out more visit solar.vic.gov.au



Launch of SEC's 10-year Strategic Plan with Premier Jacinta Allan