

# Natalie Hutchins MP

## STATE MEMBER FOR SYDENHAM



### COVID 19 UPDATE

Victoria returned to updated COVIDSafe settings from 26 March 2021.

Face masks, while not required in retail settings must be carried at all times. Wearing a face mask is mandatory when travelling on public transport or when travelling in a commercial passenger vehicle (*unless a lawful exemption applies*), by visitors to a hospital and by visitors to a care facility (*while indoors*).

Please continue to stay safe by getting tested if you're experiencing even mild flu-like symptoms and by practicing COVIDSafe behaviours.

For more information and a list of local testing sites, visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

(This information is current as of 26 March 2021).

**WHAT'S CHANGING:**  
FROM 6:00PM 26 MARCH

- UP TO 100 VISITORS TO YOUR HOME PER DAY**
- UP TO 200 PEOPLE AT A PUBLIC GATHERING FROM ANY NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS**
- MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED**
  - ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT
  - IN COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLES
  - IN AIRPORTS
  - AND IN HOSPITALS AND AGED CARE FACILITIES
- OFFICE-BASED WORKPLACES INCREASE UP TO 100 PER CENT CAPACITY**

### SERRATED TUSSOCK



You would have all no doubt seen the images on the news in early December last year of the “hairy weed” invasion that impacted many residents in Hillside.

Unfortunately, this event was followed by a deliberately lit fire on Monday 12th January 2021 which resulted in damage to properties.

If it wasn't for the timely response of local Fire Rescue Victoria, the fire could have been disastrous.

I have been working with local government and relevant state government departments to address these issues, to prevent any future incidents that may pose danger to residents and their homes.

I urge residents to have a fire escape plan in place and know how to enact it. Taking basic safety precautions can help protect our families and our homes.

If you see anything suspicious or of concern please contact **Crime Stoppers** on **1800 333 000**.

### CUTTING THE COST OF ENERGY BILLS FOR STRUGGLING VICTORIANS

The Victorian Government is reducing the cost of energy for Victorians doing it tough, with a one-off \$250 payment to help with payment of energy bills.

Low income households, those with a pensioner concession card or recipients of JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance can now apply for the Power

Saving Bonus. The bonus is available for 12 months and will provide immediate financial relief to more than 900,000 Victorian households.

The bonus is available through the **Victorian Energy Compare** website – [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au) – or by calling **1800 000 832**.

Delivering for the suburbs of Calder Park, Delahey, Fraser Rise, Hillside, Keilor Lodge, Keilor North, Plumpton, Taylors Lakes, Taylors Hill, Sydenham, & parts of Caroline Springs

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# ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VICTORIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM



The final report from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, 2 March 2021.

It was a day that marked fundamental reform.

More than 12,500 submissions from individuals and organisations were received over the past two years through community consultation and expert advice. Now, the state has a clear roadmap towards rebuilding our entire mental health system from the ground up.



The Royal Commission has made 65 recommendations to rebuild our broken mental health system and we will implement every single one of them.

Brimbank LGA has been identified as one of the six areas in Victoria with high mental health demand and will receive an Adult and Older Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Service fast-tracked by the final quarter of 2022.

Brimbank LGA has already received a range of mental health investments included in the 2020-2021 state budget of \$492 million, to expand inpatient mental health services in Melbourne's west with Sunshine gaining an additional 52 beds.



Further information and community forums presenting the Royal Commission findings will be held soon therefore if you wish to be involved please contact my office.

A copy of the report can also be found on the [www.finalreport.rcvmhs.vic.au](http://www.finalreport.rcvmhs.vic.au).

If you or someone you know would like specific help or advice, please contact:

Beyond Blue	1300 22 46 36
Lifeline	13 11 14
Suicide Call Back	1300 65 94 67
Kids Help Line	1800 55 18 00
Eheadspace	1800 65 08 90
Carers Australia	1800 24 26 36
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>000</b>



## LOCAL CRIME WATCH

Residents have expressed their concern to me regarding hooning behaviour and bike theft.

Local police are aware of this dangerous behaviour and advise residents to continue to report hoon driving by contacting the **Crime Stoppers Hoon Hotline** on **1800 333 000**.

Victoria Police has launched a new state-wide anti-hoon operation, Operation Achilles, aimed at cracking down and disrupting dangerous hoon drivers.

Protect yourself from bike theft by keeping it locked inside when possible and keeping a sturdy lock on hand when it is unattended.

## LOCAL STUDENT RECIPIENT OF MARRUNG SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Year 11 Copperfield College student Luke Stolzenberg on being awarded the Marrung Scholarship.

Luke is among 20 recipients from government schools across the state recognised for achieving strong academic results and dedicated involvement in their local Aboriginal community.

A tremendous achievement.

When asked who his role model and motivator was, Luke proudly mentioned his mother and Australian of the Year Victorian State recipient Donna. Since he can remember, he has volunteered alongside her and his siblings on weekends, providing a helping hand for the Kala Space and the National Homeless Collective, proud to see it flourish into a nationwide charity. Luke balances his time by prioritising school work and in his spare time enjoys playing soccer, with a career in sports science in sight.

**Best of luck with your future academic endeavours Luke!**



## KINDER TICK THE KINDER TICK PROGRAM IS HERE!



The Kinder Tick is used by early childhood education and care services across Sydenham to show their kinder program is approved to receive

Victorian Government funding and to help families find great quality kinder for their kids.

2,600 early childhood education services across the state that will now display and use the Kinder Tick.

When you see the Kinder Tick, you can be confident:

- The program will be led by a qualified teacher
- Children will benefit from play-based learning
- The kindergarten program is funded and approved by the Victorian Government
- The program complies with government guidelines and the National Quality Framework.

By looking for the Kinder Tick, you can be sure your child is taking part in an evidence-informed, play-based learning program that meets government guidelines.

## SYDENHAM HERO

Last month, I ran a social media campaign seeking to find our very own Sydenham hero. I wanted to hear from you about an amazing local resident who has made a positive difference in our local community in the past 12 months.

One resident with an inspiring story is 14-year-old Jacob Cassar. Jacob began collecting discarded bikes on daily runs throughout lockdown, accumulating a whole garage filled with bikes he had repaired and tested. Push bikes of all sizes were gifted to families with children in need for Christmas to enjoy and keep active.

Jacob's initiative started with a determination to provide other children with the joy of a bike, knowing others may not be in a fortunate position to own one.

**Thank you for your hard work and generosity Jacob!**



## BLOOMSBURY DRIVE RECREATION RESERVE



On Friday the 19th of March I was delighted to be in Taylors Hill to open the new look Bloomsbury Drive Recreation Reserve.

\$405,000 from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund helped City of

Melton deliver a great upgrade for this reserve – there's a new playground, interactive musical play equipment, a quarter basketball court and exercise equipment for

cardio, strength and flexibility, alongside new planting and landscaping.

The facilities of the reserve aim to promote exercise, play and a positive contribution towards improved social wellbeing. The reserve is a great place for residents of all ages to enjoy for many years to come.



## SUNSHINE HOSPITAL'S NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OPENS

The Victorian Government's expansion of Sunshine Hospital's emergency department is complete, giving families in Melbourne's western suburbs faster access to world-class healthcare.

The new emergency department includes nine additional dedicated treatment spaces for children, a medical imaging suite, a new paediatric triage and reception, fast-track bays and support areas.

The refurbishment of Sunshine Hospital's existing emergency department is now underway and is expected to be completed by the middle of the year. This will provide 10 additional beds, a new resuscitation area and Behaviour Assessment Unit.

Once the refurbishment is complete, Sunshine Hospital's emergency department will be able to treat an extra 59,000 patients each year.



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Authorised by N Hutchins, Shop 11, 28A Hume Drive, Sydenham. Funded from Parliamentary budget.