

Natalie Hutchins MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SYDENHAM



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

WELCOME TO THE FINAL EDITION OF MY NEWSLETTER FOR 2021

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS HAS BEEN A TRULY CHALLENGING YEAR BUT ALSO ONE OF GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY STRENGTH. VACCINATION RATES ACROSS BRIMBANK AND MELTON HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE AS RESIDENTS COME FORWARD TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, LOVED ONES, AND EACH OTHER.

I WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR COMMUNITY FOR THIS MOMENTOUS ACHIEVEMENT. RE-OPENING OUR VIBRANT STATE IS A TRUE TESTAMENT TO EVERYONE THAT WORKED HARD TO GET WHERE WE ARE, INCLUDING OUR DEDICATED SCHOOL COMMUNITIES, RESILIENT SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND OUR HEALTH CARE HEROES WHO CONTINUE TO SACRIFICE SO MUCH, EVERY SINGLE DAY.

AS YOUR STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, I LOOK FORWARD TO ACTIVELY CONTINUING TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THE NEW YEAR. I WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS FESTIVE PERIOD AND THAT YOU ENJOY THIS SPECIAL TIME WITH LOVED ONES.

COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE

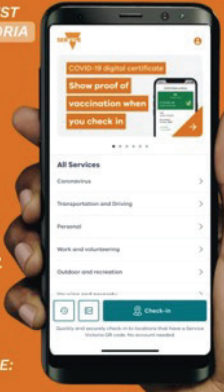
You can now add your COVID-19 digital certificate to the Service Victoria app through myGov or the Express Medicare Plus App. Make sure that your Medicare online account is linked to your myGov account.

If you don't have access to a smartphone, you can ask your GP, pharmacy, or community centre where you received your vaccination to print it for you or call **Services Australia** on **1800 653 809**.

If you need help linking your Covid-19 certificate to your Services Victoria app, please don't hesitate to get in touch by calling my office and one of my friendly staff can assist.

ADD YOUR COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE TO THE SERVICES VIC APP

- 1 YOU WILL NEED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED AND HAVE THE LATEST VERSION OF THE SERVICES VICTORIA APP
- 2 OPEN THE SERVICE VICTORIA APP AND CLICK ON 'ADD CERTIFICATE VIA MYGOV'.
- 3 LOG IN TO YOUR MYGOV ACCOUNT. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A MYGOV ACCOUNT, VISIT: [HTTPS://MYGOV.AU](https://mygov.au)
- 4 TAP 'SHARE WITH CHECK-IN APP': TAP 'SERVICE VICTORIA'.
- 5 ONCE YOU'VE READ THE CONDITIONS, TAP 'ACCEPT AND SHARE'. YOU'LL SEE THE MESSAGE: 'SENDING CERTIFICATE'.
- 6 ONCE YOU SEE YOUR COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE, TAP 'ADD CERTIFICATE'. YOUR COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE IS NOW STORED IN YOUR SERVICE VICTORIA APP.



FIRE WARNING



Last summer we saw the devastating impact bushfires had across our state. Locally, Hillside residents were impacted by a deliberately lit grassfire.

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 ahead of the upcoming fire season.

- For a range of fire safety preparedness materials visit: frv.vic.gov.au
- For information in an emergency: VicEmergency brings together community information and warnings for all types of emergencies in Victoria. Download the **VicEmergency** app or visit emergency.vic.gov.au/respond
- If you are in critical need of emergency services, call **Triple Zero (000)**
- If you see anything suspicious or of concern, please contact **Crime Stoppers** on **1800 333 000**.

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

Shop 11, 28A Hume Drive, Sydenham VIC 3037

P: 9449 1511 F: 9449 1922 E: natalie.hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au



95 NEW CAR PARKING SPACES COMING TO SYDENHAM ROAD

In October, I was pleased to announce that 95 new car parking spaces will be coming to Sydenham Road as part of the Andrews Labor Government's Car Parks for Commuters program, which will be delivered by Brimbank City Council.

Stage one of upgrades at Sydenham Road will include more car parks, safety upgrades, a shared user path and tree planting. Whether you walk, ride, or drive to the station, the upgrade will allow for a safer and easier commute to and from work.

Works are set to be completed later this year. For more information visit carparks.vic.gov.au



Natalie Hutchins MP with Brimbank City Council Mayor Ranka Rasic at Sydenham Road

\$307 MILLION DOLLAR BOOST FOR OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

\$40M

Ambulance Victoria



Boosting their capacity to transport suspected COVID-19 patients



Surge capacity for patients requiring hospitalisation with less serious conditions



Additional paramedics and call taking staff



The Victorian Government is investing \$307 million for Victoria's health system to hold the line against COVID-19, making the most of our resources within hospitals and increase in home and community care options to keep our critical care beds ready for those who need them most.

The funding includes:

- \$87 million to increase hospital at home to free up more than 100 public hospital beds in metropolitan Melbourne
- \$42 million for the COVID Positive Pathways program to employ more staff to support COVID positive patients to remain at home during their recovery, and additional staff to navigate COVID care from hospital back into their home.
- More than \$40 million for Ambulance Victoria to boost their capacity to manage increased COVID caseload and provide surge capacity for patients with less serious conditions that still require hospitalisation

Additionally, the State Government is increasing additional workforce funding, funding for Aboriginal health organisations to provide more care and to support patients with disability.

LAND SECURED FOR A NEW AMBULANCE STATION IN TAYLORS LAKES

The Andrews Labor Government is boosting ambulance resources in Taylors Lakes, making sure paramedics have the facilities and support they need to quickly respond to local emergencies and save lives.

The new 24-hour ambulance branch on Kings Road, in Taylors Lakes will feature a four-bay garage, four bedrooms for our hard-working paramedics to rest and

recuperate, training facilities, a fully equipped kitchen and improved security and car parking to make sure our paramedics are safe.

The new Taylors Lakes ambulance branch is being delivered in partnership with the May Constructions and is expected to be completed in mid-2022.

AIR PURIFIERS ON THEIR WAY TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

51,000 air purifiers are being rolled out to all government and low-fee non-government schools during Term 4 to remove potentially infectious particles from higher-risk areas in schools.

The first schools to receive air purifiers across Sydenham included Copperfield College, Taylors Lakes Secondary College, Springside West Secondary College, Catholic Regional College, Catholic Regional College Keilor North and Gilson College.

Additionally, schools were eligible to apply for grants of up to \$25,000 to purchase shade sails – with \$60 million to create more outdoor learning spaces and make it easy for classes to be conducted outside. We've also rolled out free, at-home rapid antigen tests for unvaccinated students.

These are just some of the measures the Andrews Labor Government is taking to make sure our classes are as safe as possible, and our school communities are protected.

SUPPORTING OUR MULTICULTURAL SENIORS



Natalie Hutchins MP with residents of Kalynda Care. PHOTO TAKEN PRE COVID-19.

A total of 19 organisation across Sydenham were successful grant receipts of the Andrews Labor Government's Multicultural Seniors Support program.

This important program recognises the critical role that multicultural seniors' groups play in engaging and supporting Victoria's culturally diverse senior citizens by providing funding over a four-year period to keep members connected, deliver support programs and purchase equipment.

It's important for our multicultural seniors to be able to reconnect with their communities as Victoria emerges from the pandemic. Congratulations to all recipients!

I encourage newly established multicultural seniors' groups or those that did not receive a direct funding offer to apply for the Multicultural Seniors Support program.

Applications close 28 February 2025.

For more information or to apply, visit:

vic.gov.au/multicultural-seniors-support

HELPING FIRST HOME BUYERS OWN THEIR HOME SOONER



If you're struggling to save for a home deposit, the Victorian Homebuyer Fund could be the key to owning your home sooner.

If you have a 5% deposit, the Victorian Government will contribute up to 25% of the purchase price, in exchange for an equivalent share in the property, helping to reduce your mortgage.

Eligible participants can purchase in any location in Metropolitan Melbourne including a broad range of regional options

To take the eligibility test visit: sro.vic.gov.au/homebuyer

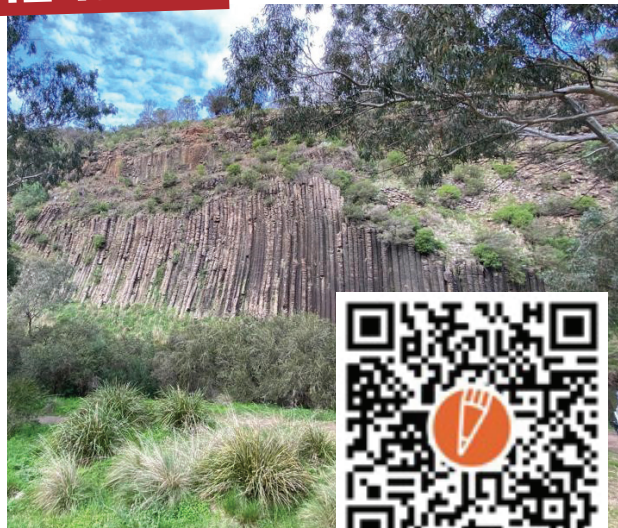
THE LATEST ACROSS SYDENHAM

GREENING THE WEST

Phase one of the 500,000 Trees for a Cooler Green West program has commenced, with street tree planting announced for Hillside, Taylors Hill and Caroline Springs. Visitors at Organ Pipes National Park will soon be able to enjoy more shade, with Parks Victoria creating canopy cover and cooling surrounds.

If you would like to help create greener, cooler spaces in our local area, register your interest by scanning the QR code and completing the planting volunteer form.

Alternatively, you may register your interest by sending your full name and address to: Natalie.Hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au



LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES, LIVEABLE WATERWAYS PROGRAM

Melbourne Water has developed a new Incentives Program, Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways that brings together several successful grant programs into a single streamlined application process.

Applications are open throughout the year to all customers including landowners, councils, public land managers, schools and community groups.

Land available for use within the Sydenham electorate to establish a community project includes spaces within Taylors Hill, Hillside, Taylors Creek and Linear Park.

For a list of the types of projects or activities you could apply for visit: melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/apply-funding



SYDENHAM MEMORIAL MURAL COMPLETED



Brimbank City Council have engaged muralist Heesco to complete the backdrop of the Sydenham Memorial Site.

The mural is dedicated in honour of the heroic men and women from Sydenham who served their country in the First and Second World War.

You can find this beautiful piece next to the Sydenham Library.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



As we re-open, our local traders are welcoming customers back.

Let's continue to support the small businesses at the heart of our state by buying local. Buying from your favourite local store makes an enormous difference to our community.

Government support for Small Business is still available.

For a full list grants, visit: business.vic.gov.au

Natalie Hutchins

DELIVERING for SYDENHAM

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P: 9449 1511 F: 9449 1922 E: natalie.hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by N Hutchins, Shop 11, 28A Hume Drive, Sydenham. Printed by Kosdown Printing, 10 Rocklea Drive, Port Melbourne. Funded from Parliamentary budget.