



NORTHSIDER NEWS



Caring Communities & Stronger Suburbs

Our community has been through tough times - but we have and will come through it by looking out for each other.

I've seen so much of this spirit already. We rally around our front line workers, check in on people we've never met, get behind our local businesses. We even put teddies in our windows to bring joy to local kids.

But truly bouncing back won't just happen by chance. As we meet the challenges of the future, my focus is on delivering for our suburbs by putting caring for people and creating jobs at the heart of our plan to build a stronger, fairer and more sustainable community.

From the complete transformation of our mental health system, to investing in better schools, healthcare, transport networks, open spaces, clean energy and social housing - we are putting people first and driving our recovery.

It's these things that make a real difference in the long run.

As your local MP, I'll keep working with you to strengthen our community so we come back better than ever.

Kat Theophanous
State Member for Northcote

- ✓ MORE CLASSROOMS
- ✓ NEW LOCAL JOBS
- ✓ A BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM
- ✓ A RENEWABLE FUTURE
- ✓ OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

BIG WIN FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Northcote High gets \$8 Million Upgrade!

Together with the school community, I've been working to secure funding to redevelop Northcote High School – and we did it!

Northcote High will get a brand new three-story STEM and learning centre in the heart of the campus. It's going to ease enrolment pressure on the school and open up more space for students to create, explore, learn and feel inspired.

Giving our young people the opportunity to reach their potential could not be more important. In 2019 we opened the beautiful new Performing Arts Centre – I can't wait to see this next stage of Northcote High's transformation come to life!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Andrews Labor Government is now funding the delivery of 13 dedicated Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs across the state - ensuring our young people get the support they need, when they need it.



Photo: Pride March 2021

Our new mental health system will mean tailored support for our diverse LGBTIQ+, multicultural and Aboriginal communities.

More Support, Close to Home

We all know someone who has struggled with their mental health - a parent, a child, a partner, a mate. Yet for too long there simply hasn't been a robust system there to support them when they need it.

That is why Labor is delivering a complete transformation of our mental health system - the biggest social reform in a generation.

Our \$3.8 billion investment will build a system that is truly responsive - with dedicated services for adults, infants, children and young people.

"I never thought I'd live to see the day that mental illness would be at the heart of a state budget."

— Professor Pat McGorry, Orygen Youth Health

Locally, I'm working to make sure our suburbs benefit - including pushing for more youth mental health and specialised perinatal and family health services.

More support will also be there for vulnerable residents as we deliver extra funding across family violence prevention, social services and housing - including a historic \$5.3 billion to build more homes for those in need.

LifeLine 13 11 14 | Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 | Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm call 000

Cutting Emissions & Creating Jobs

As your local MP I've been proud to push for strong climate policies and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels – both locally and statewide.

The Andrews Labor Government is again stepping up its commitment to tackling climate change - making us a global leader when it comes to climate action.

Our new **Climate Change Strategy** lays out a clear plan to get to net zero emissions by 2050.

We'll make homes energy efficient, decarbonise our transport sector, rapidly expand renewables, drive energy innovation, reduce industry and agri-emissions and plant millions of trees.

Our plan will mean less emissions, more jobs and a sustainable future.

WE ARE DELIVERING



Over \$1.6 billion for clean energy



50% Vic emissions cut by 2030



50% of Vic energy renewable by 2030



50% Zero Emissions Vehicle car sales by 2030



100% Vic Government operations renewable by 2025



Better Parks & Playgrounds

Making sure locals have access to quality, accessible open space close to home is a priority for me.

I'm thrilled that Penders Park and Alphington Park will get a new lease on life, including new play equipment, thanks to funding from the Andrews Labor Government.

We're also upgrading sections of Yarra Bend Park and I've worked with residents to gain access to VicTrack land for a brand new community garden in Croxton!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The average Victorian sends about 68kg of plastic to landfill each year - making up about one third of Victoria's litter. We're changing this by banning single-use plastic items like straws, cups, cutlery and food containers by Feb 2023.

CARING COMMUNITIES | STRONG CLIMATE ACTION | BETTER OPEN SPACES



Photo: Thornbury Primary School will replace this old playground with a brand new sensory playspace!

Inclusive Schools

Students at Westgarth Primary and Thornbury Primary will soon benefit from new inclusive play areas and learning spaces thanks to over \$360,000 from the Andrews Labor Government.

From the moment Principal Wheeler and Principal Bell told me about these proposals, I knew I wanted to do everything I could to support them for funding.

All students deserve the best start in life and these new playspaces will mean students of all abilities can play and learn in ways that are responsive to their needs.

Want to know what inclusive and sensory playgrounds look like? Walk past Croxton Special School to see what we've achieved before!

Congratulations Westgarth and Thornbury Primary!

Kinder for Every 3 Year Old

Next year families in every part of the state - including right here in Northcote - will have access to at least 5 hours a week of government funded three-year-old kinder.

It's a nation-leading reform, driven by the evidence that children benefit immensely from two years of early learning before starting school - with better outcomes through life.

Not only will it be great for children, it will save families money and create thousands of new jobs. To support the rollout, we're expanding local kinders and offering scholarships and Free TAFE courses to train more educators.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Smile Squad free dental vans are now rolling out to public schools across Northcote - making dental care more accessible for local kids and saving families hundreds of dollars each year.



Photo: Annie Dennis Children's Centre has begun enrolments for funded three-year-old kinder from next year

Supporting Local Businesses and our Creative Industries

The pandemic has hit our suburbs hard - but we are coming back strong.

My focus is on making sure our business precincts are protected, that jobs return to the inner north, and that we make the most of opportunities in Victoria's growth industries.

Labor's Working for Victoria Program has already created over 300 local jobs, including at CERES, Your Community Health, Bridge Darebin and the Alphington Farmers Market.

Jobs Advocates will begin operating in Northcote to help people navigate employment and training options and link more people to work opportunities.

Live music and creative industries are so cherished in our suburbs. Across the state, we have a huge \$288 million package for our arts, music and screen sectors - putting creativity at the heart of our recovery.

It's great to see so many local artists are being supported - like local Angie McMahon who will receive over \$37,000 to record her second album!



Photo: CERES Fair Food in Preston have employed more staff in their warehouse under our Working for Victoria program

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Andrews Labor Government is helping job seekers, including women and young people, get back to work with a wage subsidy that supports local businesses to hire people impacted by the pandemic - creating at least 10,000 new jobs.



Cutting Down Your Commute

Boots are on the ground as we get on with removing four dangerous level crossings in Preston! Two brand new stations are also on the way - creating a safe and accessible precinct, with the elevated rail unlocking vast areas of open space for our community.

We will need to be patient through the construction - but when it's finished, there will be no more waiting at boom gates. Safer, smoother, faster and quieter journeys. Beautiful open spaces.

And more trains, more often.



ALPHINGTON LINK UPDATE

I'm determined to get the Alphington Link to the wonderful Darebin Yarra Trail built.

That's why I've been working to pass a Bill in Parliament to make sure we can acquire the land we need to give Alphington residents a safe, easy way to access the trail - with a footbridge over La Trobe Golf Course from Farm Road.

It's a huge milestone and I could not be happier to see this moving forward.

New Aboriginal Women & Girls Sport & Wellness Centre

Australia's first dedicated Aboriginal Women & Girls Sport & Wellness Centre is being built right here in Thornbury.

I'm thrilled to announce that working alongside the Aborigines Advancement League, the Fitzroy Stars and Hands on Health Australia, we've secured a \$5.35 million contribution from the Andrews Labor Government to make it happen.

The centre will be a dedicated space for health and wellbeing services, education and sports training. It will include new change rooms, treatment facilities, social areas and a gym.

Most importantly, it will empower Aboriginal women and girls to achieve sporting, cultural, social, political, and economic equality.

We can't wait to see our local players using the new facilities!



Photo: Turning the sod on the new facilities for women and girls at Sir Douglas Nicholls oval in Thornbury, with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

GET IN TOUCH

If you need help with a state matter or have an issue of concern, please get in touch by phone or email. You can also drop by the Northcote Electorate Office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Αν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια με κάποιο κρατικό ζήτημα, καλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την Κατερίνα μέσω τηλεφώνου ή ηλεκτρονικού ταχυδρομείου. Μπορείτε επίσης να επισκεφτείτε το γραφείο στο 4/404-414 High St Northcote μεταξύ 9 π.μ. και 5 μ.μ. Δευτέρα ως Παρασκευή.

Se avete bisogno di assistenza di competenza Statale o su specifici problemi di vostro interesse, potete contattare Kat, telefonicamente o scrivendo una email. Potete anche rivolgervi direttamente al nostro ufficio di Northcote. Siamo aperti dal lunedì al venerdì, dalle 9.00 alle 17.00.

如果您在州政府事务上需要帮助或有疑问, 请使用电话或电子邮件与Kat联络。您也可以在星期一至星期五的上午9点至下午5点之间到Northcote办公室查询。



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