

# October 2024

# Community Update

## Family Support

Recently, I visited Leopold Primary School's Breakfast Club where toasties, cereal and fruit were on offer. I met students and school staff Sky and Rob from the Wellbeing Team who were ensuring students were able to access breakfast before the morning bells.

There were a number of student helpers from grades three to six serving up breakfast to their friends and it was incredible to hear about the confidence that these students have developed from the opportunity to volunteer.

We know the breakfast club is an incredible program helping to reduce the financial strain for families, as well as ensuring kids are getting the nourishing start to the day they need, and it is currently run in several schools across the Bellarine.

From next year, this program will be expanding to all government schools, meaning all 12 government schools in the Bellarine will have a chance to offer breakfast to their students.

I'm proud to say this isn't the only way the State Government is supporting Bellarine families and children. Schools will be providing more information on the \$400 School Saving Bonus to help cover the additional school costs such as uniforms, camps, textbooks and excursions. The current cost of living all add up and this is why we're supporting families.

## Bellarine Health Services

The State Government is supporting a number of healthcare services to reduce wait times, increase accessibility to care and lower out of pocket costs. 29 Urgent Care Clinics are available across Victoria, providing expert urgent care 7 days a week.

The Geelong Urgent Care Clinic is at 75-77 Roslyn Rd, Belmont open 7.30am to 9.30pm everyday, for free immediate healthcare without a referral or appointment.

This clinic can provide healthcare when immediate treatment is required, such as to treat mild infections, burns, suspected fractures or sprains, but is not life-threatening. Find out more via [geelongppcc.com.au](http://geelongppcc.com.au) or call 03 5206 7366.

Another healthcare service to treat non-life-threatening emergencies is the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED). VVED is a free video telehealth medical consultation service that connects patients with emergency doctors and specialist nurse practitioners who conduct clinical assessment and provide medical advice virtually. Find out more via [www.vved.org.au](http://www.vved.org.au)

The Pharmacy Pilot Program has also been running in seven Pharmacies across the Bellarine since October 2023, including Direct Chemist Outlet Leopold and Peak Pharmacy Leopold.

This program is giving more people more options for care with selected pharmacies in the program offering consultations and care for UTIs, mild skin conditions, resupply of contraceptive pill and a range of vaccinations for travel and other health vaccines.

