

July 2024

Community Update

Planning Victoria Pop-Up

The State Government is asking all Victorians to have their say about the kinds of cities, towns and regions they want to live in, and the kind of Victoria we want to build for future generations.

Last month a community event was held at Portarlington Football Club where local residents were invited to tell the Department of Planning and Transport representatives about their future vision for Victoria, and more specifically the Bellarine Peninsula.

This session was one of 60 pop-up events planned throughout Victoria over the coming months, reaching all corners of the state.

All input and engagement will inform the blueprint to how Victoria grows and develops as a state for the next 30 years. Join in the conversation via engage.vic.gov.au/shape-our-victoria to complete the survey before it closes on 30 August 2024.

Phonics Announcement

The Allan Labor Government recently announced that explicit literacy teaching will be embedded as a core feature of how students are taught from Prep to Year 10, including explicit phonics in Prep to Year 2.

During my inaugural speech to Parliament, I highlighted how important it was that we continue to review teacher training and professional development to ensure our schools are resourced to tackle the trend that tens of thousands of Australian kids were failing to meet literacy and numeracy standards. I also spoke about my own teaching experience and my son's dyslexia diagnoses. These changes will put phonics at the centre of learning, and change the literacy lotto.

Over the coming months there will be more information available as to how teachers and schools in the Bellarine will be supported as these changes take place.

Pharmacy Pilot Program

The Pharmacy Pilot Program is giving people more options for care with selected pharmacies in the program offering consultations and care for urinary tract infections (UTIs), mild skin conditions, resupply of the contraceptive pill and a range of vaccinations for travel and other health vaccines.

Across the Bellarine, there are seven pharmacies involved in the Pilot, including Direct Chemist Outlet Leopold and Peak Pharmacy Leopold, creating more accessibility for immediate care. Find out more via www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/services-support/community-pharmacist-pilot.

As your local member of State Government, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au if you require any assistance.

