

MEDIA RELEASE

20 July, 2020

Supporting African Students in the Local Area

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting and empowering young Victorians of African heritage in the local area to achieve their potential in school by allocating \$1.6 million to employ School Community Liaison Officers.

School Community Liaison Officers will act as culturally responsive advisors to support positive learning outcomes in eight host schools and up to 23 surrounding schools across Melbourne with a high proportion of students with African heritage. This will include students enrolled in Victorian schools across Western, North Eastern and Southern Melbourne including schools in Monee Valley.

The officers will respond and build awareness of African Victorian student needs, ensure parents are included in school processes and foster student engagement and wellbeing.

This is part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$8.6 million Victorian African Communities Action Plan.

The new initiatives have been designed and delivered in partnership with the Victorian African Communities Action Plan Implementation Committee, which comprises a diverse group of African Victorian community leaders.

Read more about the initiatives at: www.vic.gov.au/empowering-african-communities-victoria

Quotes attributable to Member for Essendon, Danny Pearson MP.

"We're working closely with Victoria's African communities to make sure they have what they need so their children can thrive."

"This initiative will help support and empower young Victorians of African heritage in Moonee Valley to achieve their potential at school."

"The Education State is about ensuring every student at every school across the state gets a quality education."