

Montello Primary School

Montello – uplift of \$2.5m to a total of \$9.6m – always was under funded and inadequate.

Whilst I am very grateful for the efforts of the Minister – this is not an equitable outcome for my community of Montello PS.

I note another Primary School – also in need of redevelopment – getting funding of \$14m. I find it hard – as my community of Montello Primary School do – to understand how and why \$4.5m more is provided to redevelop a school on a relatively flat site, that is a newer – though still old building would attract this level of funding?

I fully support the funding for Burnie Primary however I know my community of Montello feel disrespected and unheard. As I have said for years now – this is a school in a very low socio-economic area with a disempowered school community.

We have many fantastic advocates and families willing to speak up and fight for their school but it is much harder.

Burnie Primary School also services some low socio-economic areas but also has a catchment that includes more advantaged families who are more adept at engaging in these processes.

It is great to see this re-development progress for Burnie Primary School where they have outgrown much of the current facility.

Mr President, I know that the additional and welcome extra \$2.5m will assist to do some of the upgrades to Montello Primary School that are desperately needed including replacing very dangerous windows, but it will fall short of delivering the original set of works required to deliver a fully contemporary learning space that these families deserve.

It also makes sense to do a proper job in the first instance – coming back to do more work at a later time is never economical and is disruptive to student learning.

Just outside my electorate in Havenview is another Primary School and this school will receive \$11.6m – I don't fully know the requirements of Havenview but I do know it too is a very old building.

It just seems Mr President that the community of Montello Primary School are the poor cousins here on a very steep and challenging site, with a very old school that is unsafe in many ways and inaccessible in many areas, in a low socio-economic area with a broadly disempowered parent body.

I am grateful for the increase in funding but will be asking in Budget Estimates if any other buckets listed in the Budget papers could be accessed to assist do a full and proper job.