

# School Playgrounds



## Creating the best Environment to Play and Learn

The Liberal-led Government recognises that physical education and playtime at schools are a vital part of encouraging a healthy lifestyle and promoting cognitive and social development.

Appropriate school playground equipment and sporting facilities are important so our children can increase their physical fitness, develop motor skills, encourage active play and stimulate their imaginations.

Research shows that unstructured play in nature-based playgrounds helps give children more opportunities to develop their co-ordination and motor skills and use their imaginations. Schools also have an important role in teaching children about the importance of nutrition and the science of growing healthy food.

## Fast Facts

- There are 296,377 students enrolled in 798 public schools across WA.
- Public school students in Years 1 to 10 must spend at least two hours of their weekly curriculum in physical activity.
- Schools are also encouraged to provide opportunities for students to be physically active at recess and lunchtime.
- Research by Curtin University has found that increased participation in sport and other forms of physical activity enhances cognitive function, memory, concentration, behaviour and academic achievement.
- \$7 million has been invested by the Liberal-led Government since 2011 in the playground equipment and shade sail program.
- A total of 442 grants have been provided to 423 WA public schools since the playground equipment and shade sail program commenced in 2011.
- This Government has supported and promoted Nature Play WA and established nature playgrounds at Perth Stadium, Elizabeth Quay, Perth Children's Hospital and in the Sunset Heritage precinct.



## Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will:

- Commit \$20 million over four years to upgrade and resurface play areas and hard courts at metropolitan and regional public schools across the State.
  - This follows the Liberal-led Government's investment of \$6.5 million in 2015-16 to resurface play areas and hard courts at 66 public schools.
- Commit \$4 million over four years to extend the playground equipment program to include nature play playgrounds and to establish kitchen gardens at schools.
  - Grants will be increased from the current \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$40,000 to provide more support to schools with limited fund raising abilities.
  - Schools will be able to use the grants for general playground equipment, nature play playgrounds and kitchen gardens.

