

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



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FREE ENTRY FOR KIDS AT VICTORIAN ZOOS

Kids will be able to visit Victoria's world-class zoos for free during the school holidays, saving mums and dads money and giving more families the opportunity to visit, thanks to a funding boost from the Andrews Labor Government.

As part of the Victorian Budget 2020/21, \$20 million for Kids Go Free will ensure children under 16 can continue to enjoy free trips to the zoo on weekends, public holidays and during Victorian state school holidays.

Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo have proven to be family favourites over the holidays and on weekends.

Victorian families love their zoos, and the visitation numbers prove it: in the past three years, more than six million people have enjoyed visits to Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, and Werribee Open Range Zoo.

Children under the age of 16 make up a large proportion of those visitors, with 2.5 million kids visiting Zoos Victoria's three zoos in the past three years.

Zoos are a great educational opportunity, giving kids a chance to see some incredible animals from around the world as well as some of our most loved native species.

Zoos Victoria is a leader in zoo-based conservation, with great facilities, dedicated keepers and fascinating animals. The *Kids Go Free* program means all kids can learn about the importance of the conserving and protecting animals.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"Whether you're a kid or a parent, everyone loves the zoo. We're making sure no kids miss out by giving families a helping hand to admire the animals and spend some quality time together."

"Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo provide a wonderful day out with family and friends for all Victorians to enjoy."

Quotes attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Sheena Watt

"Kids Go Free gives so many families the opportunity to visit our zoos together."

"This great initiative also gives young people an opportunity to learn about animals from around the world and how they can support our conservation work to ensure a future rich in wildlife."

Quote attributable to Zoos Victoria CEO Dr Jenny Gray

"I want to thank the Government for its continued support of Zoos Victoria, including through this Kids Go Free initiative."