

fact sheet

ACCESS, INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE: A NEW DIRECTION IN EDUCATION

The 2002 State Budget has provided an extra \$550 million over the next four years for education and training in Victoria to boost access, innovation and excellence in schools and TAFE institutes across the State.

The 2002 State Budget also provides funding for 925 additional teachers.

This major investment underpins a new direction in education in Victoria.

The 2002 budget allocation is on top of the \$2.2 billion already invested by the Bracks Government in education and training over the past two years, resulting in an additional 3000 teachers and staff in government schools throughout Victoria.

Other 2002 State Budget funding initiatives include:

- \$81.6 million to hire 300 additional teachers for approximately 100 secondary schools which have higher than average absentee rates and lower than average rates of Year 12 or equivalent completion, as part of the Bracks Government's Access to Excellence Initiative
- \$216.4 million for more than 90 schools and TAFE institutes across the State for new buildings, the modernisation of existing schools, and TAFE facilities, including an educational precinct in Maryborough and state-of-the-art new schools to replace portables at Bellarine Secondary College and the Peninsula Specialist School
- \$34.6 million to provide funding for an additional 150 Early Years Numeracy teachers to ensure the effective implementation of the Early Years Numeracy Program by providing additional support for struggling students in the classroom
- \$43.3 million to meet higher than expected enrolment growth in Prep-2 classes in government primary schools
- \$84.3 million for a new middle years reform, Schools for Innovation and Excellence initiative, representing a new direction in education. Clusters of primary and secondary schools will develop innovative and locally relevant approaches to keep students engaged with education in Years 5-9
- \$47.7 million for the Statewide implementation and further trials of the new Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
- \$31.1 million for improved State-wide access to school transport through increased school bus conveyance allowances and a changed car allowance for students who don't have access to school buses
- \$3.6 million for an additional 15 Koorie educators and 6 Koorie Home School Liaison officers
- \$8 million to continue the youth FReeZA program where young people can get involved in organising and running gigs and youth events
- \$3.1 million to stage the 2005 Pacific School Games.

The \$550 million dollars of the 2002 Budget spread over the next four years, will be used to enable the Bracks Government to achieve the following three targets:

- By 2005, Victoria will be at or above national benchmark levels for reading, writing and numeracy as they apply to primary students
- By 2010, 90 per cent of young people in Victoria will successfully complete Year 12 or its equivalent
- By 2005, young people aged 15-19 in rural and regional Victoria engaged in education and training will increase by six per cent.

Budget:

\$550 million

*Access, Innovation and Excellence:
A New Direction in Education
Budget 2002*