

fact sheet

BUDGET SUPPORT FOR THE TAFE SYSTEM

Over the past two years, the Bracks Government has pumped more than \$250 million into Victoria's TAFE system.

This investment included major funding boosts to:

- increase program delivery so that more Victorians develop the knowledge and skills they will need for their future;
- strengthen regional TAFE Institutes;
- offset the effects of fee concessions;
- increase the price paid to TAFE Institutes for student contact hours;
- provide funding for building maintenance; and
- replace and update teaching equipment.

It also included an injection of more than \$124 million to improve TAFE Institute infrastructure through the provision of new facilities, replacement of existing facilities and reduction in the maintenance backlog.

The thrust to ensure Victoria's public TAFE infrastructure continues to build its capacity to provide world class learning environments continues with the announcement in the Bracks Government's 2002 Budget of \$16.7 million to build new state of the art facilities at four TAFE Institutes.

The Bracks Government's focus on recognising the importance of skills obtained through vocational education and training continues.

A \$47.7 million allocation in the 2002 State Budget will fund the State-wide roll-out of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) into schools and TAFE Institutes in 2004. The VCAL provides an additional pathway option to the VCE for young people interested in vocationally orientated careers, or moving straight into employment.

\$3.1 million is to be allocated to address the needs of young people at risk of discontinuing their education and training, particularly while they are in training. The Bracks Government has set a target of 90 per cent of young people successfully completing Year 12 or its equivalent by 2010. Support for the TAFE system to cater for young people at risk is a key priority of the Government.

\$9.2 million has been provided over the next two years to develop Victoria's design capabilities. This funding will be used to develop a network of Design centres of Excellence, develop world-class curriculum for design and new technology courses in schools and TAFE Institutes; provide skills development for secondary school and TAFE teachers; and fund Showcasing Victorian Design and the Premier's Design Awards to increase the profile of Victoria's expertise in design to national and international industry.