



Lynne Kosky

Minister for Education
and Training

Building on Excellence

Victorian students will this year again benefit from a Bracks Government budget focused on education as its number one priority.

This includes a massive \$366.8 million building and facilities improvement program in schools and TAFE.

This budget brings the Government's additional investment in education since 1999 to \$4.36 billion.

There are now 5000 additional teachers and staff in our government school system.

This budget announces funding for an extra 250 teachers, 200 from the start of 2005, and a further 50 from the start of 2006.

This Government's commitment to education has resulted in better facilities, new schools and smaller class sizes throughout Victorian government schools.

Earlier this year I launched the *Bringing Learning to Life* campaign, highlighting the diversity and quality of educational opportunities now available to our students.

I have also outlined a comprehensive reform package, the *Blueprint for Government Schools* to

ensure Victorian government schools are totally focused on improving student outcomes.

This budget further reinforces the Bracks Government's commitment to rebuilding an excellent government school system.

TAFE and Adult and Community Education (ACE) students are also big winners in this budget, with an additional \$116.8 million for training, new equipment and capital works.

The Bracks Government is committed to building a world-class training system.

The budget offers more training to support emerging industries, as well as expanded access for young people, mature-age workers and people with disabilities.

With our government school system, TAFE and ACE, the Bracks Government is committed to life-long learning.

We firmly believe that education is a family affair, and that the education budget in particular is one for families.



LYNNE KOSKY

Minister for Education and Training



Jacinta Allan

Minister for Education Services

This budget continues the Bracks Government's promise of building a first-class education system for Victorian students.

It delivers a \$30.5 million boost for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, while ensuring that many more Victorian government school students have improved access to learning via the internet.

This budget will provide a significant boost of \$60 million for school maintenance.

In particular, this budget demonstrates the Bracks Government's commitment to families with a \$78.1 million increase to the Education Maintenance Allowance.

This additional allocation will provide more support for low-income families to purchase textbooks, uniforms and other school necessities.

In January, I announced a number of initiatives targeting *Teacher Supply and Demand*. This year's budget funding of \$4.5 million to deliver refresher training and retraining courses will help maintain a qualified teaching workforce in difficult-to-fill subjects, including science, maths and languages, in hard-to-staff schools in regional and remote areas.

The Bracks Government will continue to ensure it has the infrastructure in place, including buildings, information technology and people, to ensure delivery of the highest quality education for Victorian government school students.



JACINTA ALLAN

Minister for Education Services

Students **THE WINNERS**



The 2004–05 Budget provides for a significant investment in education and training infrastructure across the whole of Victoria.

The budget builds upon commitments made by the Bracks Government to improve the quality of education and training for all Victorians and supports key initiatives including the *Blueprint for Government Schools*.

This budget will provide resources to build new and better schools for young Victorians in urban, regional and rural areas. It also identifies schools that will be replaced to better meet the needs of their local communities.

In addition to building programs, this budget has allocated significant funds to provide specialist-learning facilities for schools and TAFE in areas including information technology, science, sport, and art and design.

This year will see funds increased to upgrade TAFE and expand training for young people and mature-age workers.

The Bracks Government has committed a significant boost in funding to increase bandwidth, making internet access up to 30 times faster in 300 Victorian government schools. This builds on the 900 schools who have already gained access to faster internet connections through improved bandwidth under this government.

Twenty-three schools in rural and regional areas will benefit from classroom and library improvements. In addition, the budget has allocated significant funding for new classrooms and educational facilities in regional and rural schools.

This budget has made significant provision for schools to link with community groups and organisations to build new facilities, including community halls, sporting facilities, libraries and technology centres.

Every government school in Victoria will receive \$5500 to improve their school grounds and facilities. For example, schools can consider water-saving improvements to alleviate the effect of the drought on school grounds.

This budget provides funding for an extra 250 new teachers. Professional development will also be made available to attract a further 300 qualified teachers back into the workforce. Funding will be provided to retrain up to 150 teachers where schools have problems in attracting teachers in particular subject areas.

This budget will take the international reputation of Victoria's education system to a new level, with funding directed to secure Victoria's reputation as the premier destination for students coming from overseas.

This budget recognises the need to support Victorian families on low incomes by boosting the Education Maintenance Allowance by almost 60 per cent and tying future changes in the allowance to increases in the cost of living. These changes will make it easier for families on low incomes to purchase school essentials such as books and uniforms.



Budget HIGHLIGHTS

NEW SCHOOLS AND IMPROVED FACILITIES

\$341.8 million for building and facilities improvement programs at 80 Victorian schools which includes:

- \$111.3 million to improve and upgrade 65 existing schools across Victoria
- \$36.7 million for new primary and secondary schools in seven locations
- \$9.1 million for replacement of three schools
- \$5.2 million to re-instate two schools destroyed or damaged by fire
- \$27.5 million to develop specialist facilities in secondary schools
- \$2.5 million for a new Year 9 rural learning campus
- \$60 million for maintenance improvements of schools – including toilet upgrades, fire services, electrical upgrades, roofing, asphaltting, flooring, and maintenance for some older style relocatables
- \$29.5 million to fund joint projects between schools and their local community
- \$10 million to allow every government school in Victoria to spruce up their school-grounds.
- \$50 million to build 600 new relocatable classrooms.

Of this total funding, \$53.1 million will be allocated for new facilities for 23 schools in regional Victoria.

MORE TEACHERS

- \$66.4 million for the funding of 250 new teachers and professional development, including \$2 million for refresher courses to encourage 300 qualified teachers back into the workforce each year and \$2.5 million to retrain 150 rural teachers where schools have problems in attracting teachers in particular subject areas.
- This budget announces funding for 200 teachers from the start of 2005, and a further 50 from the start of 2006.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- \$78.1 million boost to the Education Maintenance Allowance to better assist eligible parents in meeting the costs of educating their children. From the start of 2005 the Education Maintenance Allowance will be increased by \$73 for primary school students and \$146 for secondary school students. These amounts will be indexed to the local CPI for the first time.
- \$29.5 million to fund joint projects between schools and their local community to build facilities such as community halls, sporting facilities and libraries.





TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION

- \$116.8 million to TAFE and ACE courses and training for Victorians. Funding includes \$90 million for training programs, \$12 million to continue modernising teaching equipment, and \$12 million towards consolidating teaching facilities at the University of Ballarat.
- \$2.8 million towards Adult Community Education to increase the student contact hour rate and provide capital works.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- \$30.5 million boost for information technology, including faster internet connections to 300 more schools, revamping the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's assessment systems, and making improvements to simplify the Department's payroll system.

INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

- \$5.75 million to secure Victoria's leadership in international education. This budget will provide increased funding to strengthen Victoria's position as a world leader in international education through marketing campaigns, participation in trade shows, and scholarship opportunities for Victorian students studying overseas.



Further copies of the budget kit can be downloaded from www.budget.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, a limited number of hard copies are available by calling the Department of Education & Training's Information and Referral Service on 9637 2222.

© State of Victoria, May 2004

Published by the Communications Division, Department of Education & Training, GPO Box 4367, Melbourne Victoria 3001.

