

Building A 21st Century School System

\$1.3 billion over five years to boost science, maths, literacy and numeracy, ICT, Vocational Education and Training in schools and teacher quality.

The Brumby Government is taking action to ensure every child who is educated in a Victorian school has a pathway to university, training or a job.

Initiatives in maths and science, vocational training in schools and information technology are equipping our young people for 21st century life and jobs.

The five-year *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development* continues record investment in education to build a better education system across the board. This Budget sees continued funding for the initiatives we know are working in our schools.

The 2009–10 Budget will provide:

More support to improve literacy, numeracy and information technology teaching in primary schools

This Budget continues to recognise the vital importance of providing students with increased literacy and numeracy support to ensure they have the very best education possible.

\$57.7 million will be provided for 200 teaching and learning coaches who will focus on improving maths and science teaching in targeted schools. This will also provide 50 Ultranet coaches to ready schools for the implementation of the Ultranet and equip teachers with information technology skills to support 21st century learning.

Education reform

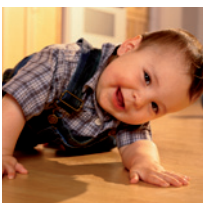
This Budget provides **\$38 million** for a range of education reforms to support the achievement of the Council of Australian Government targets in key areas such as literacy and numeracy, teacher quality and closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students.

Vocational Education and Training in Schools

To build skills and create jobs **\$15.2 million** has been allocated to meet increased demand for places in the successful VET in Schools program.

This will continue to provide young people with pathways from school to jobs to meet Victoria's industry skills needs and expand students' long term employment opportunities.

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More computers in Schools

To ensure Victorian government school students are equipped to work and live in a technological world, this Budget provides an additional **\$7 million** for more computers in schools.

This new funding complements the \$11.6 million provided by the Brumby Government to support the National Secondary School Computer Fund, as announced through the 2008-09 Budget Update.

More Kindergarten places

\$13.6 million will be provided in this Budget to fund an additional 4000 places at kindergartens across the state and to effectively maintain free places for eligible low-income families. More Victorian children will now have a funded place at kindergarten in the year before school.

A structured kindergarten program, whether in an integrated children's centre, long day care centre or stand alone kindergarten, is a vital part of children's development, setting them up for a successful transition to school.

Lifting teacher quality through higher pay

The Brumby Government has provided **\$1.17 billion** for the more than 40,000 teachers employed in the government school system to lift teacher quality through higher pay and more support in the classroom – including more planning time and increased tuition time for secondary school students.

Victorian government schools – Engaging with parents and the community

Almost 1600 government schools across Victoria are providing every child every opportunity to shine. This Budget provides **\$2.5 million** for the Community Engagement Project, providing vital information for parents to raise awareness and engagement with Victoria's 21st Century education system.

Working together – partnerships with the Commonwealth

In addition to the State Budget funding, Victorians will also gain vital funding for school improvements through a range of national partnership agreements with the Federal Government. These include:

- \$275.3 million over seven years through the National Partnership on Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities to drive improvements for education in low socio-economic status (SES) school communities and improve student outcomes
- \$26.8 million over two years for literacy and numeracy reform initiatives
- \$24.0 million over four years through the National Partnership on Improving Teacher Quality to improve teacher and school leader quality
- \$210.6 million over five years through the National Partnership on Early Childhood Education to support the delivery of universal access to 15 hours per week of early childhood education for all children in the year before school by 2013
- \$22 million over six years through the National Partnership on Indigenous Early Childhood Development will help to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and young people through:
 - o the establishment of two new Children and Family Centres;
 - o enhanced antenatal, pre-pregnancy and teenage health services.