



2005-06 Victorian Budget



\$96.3 MILLION FOR HIGH-SPEED, FIBRE-OPTIC BROADBAND – SmartONE AND NEW COMPUTERS FOR STUDENTS

Under a new \$89.3 million four-year program, all Victorian government schools will benefit from the SmartONE initiative to provide a high-speed, fibre-optic broadband system.

This broadband upgrade will massively improve online communication across Victorian schools, promoting collaboration between students and teachers not previously available and offering schools a wealth of educational resources.

Under this initiative:

- All government schools will be upgraded to 4 megabits per second (mbps) of fibre-optic bandwidth capacity within four years
- All city and country government schools will share the same capacity
- Some of Victoria's smallest schools will have their bandwidth capacity increased by 60 times
- Schools will be able to add further capacity if they choose.

In addition to SmartONE, \$7 million in funding has been allocated to assist schools to buy computers and other high-tech learning equipment.

The \$7 million will expand the number of high-tech classrooms in schools across Victoria.

This is in addition to recent initiatives already undertaken by the Bracks Government including:

- \$50 million to provide 95 per cent of principals and teachers in Victorian government schools with a notebook computer
- \$6 million to upgrade information and communication facilities in Victorian government schools allowing them to operate a wireless local network.

These initiatives will provide for significant reforms in teaching, curriculum and school administration, particularly for regional and remote schools.