



\$233.9 MILLION TO TACKLE KEY ISSUES OF CLASS SIZES, STUDENT RETENTION, AND EQUITY IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

\$93.4 million to ensure Prep–2 class sizes remain low

This funding over four years will enable schools to continue the Bracks Government's commitment to a state-wide average class size of 21 for students in Prep–2 classes.

\$43.5 million in enrolment-based funding to respond to growth in the number of students enrolled in government schools

Funding is allocated over four years to take into account an increasing number of students in Years 10–12.

The cohort of senior students continues to increase, in line with the Government's *Growing Victoria Together* target that, by 2010, 90 per cent of young Victorians will successfully complete Year 12 or its equivalent.

Year 10–12 apparent retention rates in Victorian government schools reached 83 per cent in August 2004 (up from 78.7 per cent in 1999).

\$42.9 million to continue to provide intensive support for early years' numeracy

A total of \$42.9 million is allocated over four years to continue to improve numeracy outcomes for students.

\$36.9 million to help needy students

Research has shown a significant correlation between the socio-economic status of students (as measured by student family occupation) and their educational success.

Funding over four years will be targeted at needy students to help them overcome disadvantage and provide them with increased educational opportunities.

Schools will be encouraged to target funds to meet the individual needs of their students, with emphasis on improving literacy and numeracy skills in the middle years.

\$14.2 million to continue the schools for innovation and excellence program

This successful program enables primary and secondary school clusters to work closely together to deliver innovation and excellence in the middle years of schooling and to work on high quality programs to improve literacy and numeracy skills and increase school attendance of students in Years 5–9.

This budget allocation provides each cluster with funding over two years for the equivalent of one teacher to coordinate the work of the cluster.

\$3 million for teachers to undertake training in the new learning standards

Support will be provided in 2005–06 to enable Victorian school teachers to undertake professional learning activities to familiarise themselves with the new essential learning standards – the new approach to the Victorian curriculum from Prep–10.