



# *State Budget 2005*

## **3a FROM THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING & EDUCATION SERVICES**

Tuesday May 3, 2005

### **\$868 MILLION EXTRA FOR WORLD CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Victorian students will have access to new and upgraded schools, the most modern technology in Australia, and resources to keep their class sizes low under an **\$868 million** boost to the education system.

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, and the Minister for Education Services, Jacinta Allan, said the State Budget built on the Government's commitment to make Victoria the best place to raise a family.

"We have been elected on a policy of making education the number one priority, to build a better future and to give children the start they need," Ms Kosky said.

"In the last five years we have been rebuilding the education system, reducing average class sizes to record lows, employing more teachers, and investing in new school buildings and equipment.

"The 2005-06 State Budget continues our work by giving Victorian students the opportunities they need to get the best start in life."

Ms Kosky said a \$280.5 million school construction program included:

- **\$145.5 million** for modernisation projects at more than 50 schools;
- **\$94 million** for the construction and completion of 16 new and replacement schools at: Tarneit Primary School, near Werribee; Mill Park Lakes Primary School; Mill Park Lakes Secondary College; Nichols Point Primary School, Mildura; Woody Yaloak Primary School; Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College (new campus), Geelong; Bendigo Special Development School, Bendigo West; Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Melbourne; Newcomb Secondary College, (replacement facilities) Geelong; Williamstown High School; Caroline Springs Secondary College (9-12) Stage 2; Jamieson Way P-9, (Stage 2), Point Cook; Mount Erin Secondary College, Stage 3, Somerville; Wallan Secondary College, (Stage 2); Traralgon Secondary College (East campus) Stage 2; Barwon Valley School, Stage 2 Geelong;
- **\$27.8 million** to drive excellence through specialisation in secondary schools, building new facilities for science and technology, arts, languages, sport, design and music;
- **\$2.8 million** for a new rural learning residential campus for Year 9 students; and

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- **\$10.3 million** for planning future construction of schools, and to modernise Moreland City College to accommodate the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority exam centre and the northern region offices of the Department of Education & Training to co-occupy the site with the new Coburg Senior High School.

Since the Bracks Government was elected in 1999, a total of 28 new schools and 17 replacement schools have now been built, funded or are under construction.

Ms Kosky said other Budget initiatives also included:

- **\$115 million** for increased funding for non-government schools, distributed under a fairer, more equitable model;
- **\$43.3 million** to create more pre-apprenticeships, improve vocational skills and upgrade TAFE facilities and equipment;
- **\$89.3 million** for a fibre optic schools broadband network;
- **\$299 million** for increased funding for schools programs to target equity, class sizes, literacy and numeracy;
- **\$28.7 million** to provide additional support for a growing number of students with a disability;
- **\$10 million** for additional cleaning costs; and
- **\$1.9 million** for the statewide expansion of an anti-truancy program as announced as part of *A Fairer Victoria*.

Ms Allan said the Bracks Government was rebuilding the education system, while keeping a strong balanced Budget.

“We are continuing to invest in schools – the teachers, the programs, the buildings and the technology – to ensure all students learn to their full potential,” Ms Allan said.