



State Budget 2006

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FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING &
THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION SERVICES

Tuesday May 30, 2006

\$1.2 BILLION EXTRA FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Victorian students will benefit from new schools, the re-building of existing schools and a renewed focus on literacy skills under a **\$1.2 billion** investment over five years in the State's education and training system.

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, and the Minister for Education Services, Jacinta Allan said the Government had invested over \$6.3 billion in education since 1999.

“With today's Budget commitments, 687 schools will have received funding for major works under the Bracks Government – representing almost half of all Government schools.

“The Bracks Government is working to make Victoria a great place to live, work and raise a family by making education its number one priority,” Ms Kosky said.

“In the last six years we have employed more teachers and staff to reduce average primary class sizes to record lows, target literacy and numeracy skills and lift school retention rates.

“There is still more to do and this extra investment builds on our commitment to ensure that every child gets the best possible start to life.”

Ms Allan said an annual child transition payment, the *School Start Bonus*, would be made to the parents of every child starting Prep and Year 7 at every school in Victoria, at a cost of **\$182 million** over five years.

“From next year a payment of \$300 for students starting Prep and those making the transition to Year 7 will help parents meet the costs of new uniforms and equipment,” she said.

“Students in those year levels will also benefit this year, with an immediate half-year \$150 payment to be made early in term three.”

Ms Kosky said a \$448 million school and TAFE construction and equipment program included:

- **\$115 million** for modernisation projects for at least 33 schools;
- **\$100 million** as the first round of the *Building Tomorrow's Schools Today* fund from the anticipated proceeds of the Snowy Hydro sale to accelerate capital works across the State;
- **\$58 million** to buy land to provide new schools in growth suburbs, sites for replacement schools and site extensions required for growing schools;

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- **\$50.2 million** for construction and completion of nine new and replacement schools at: Laurimar Primary School; Epping North East Primary School; Mill Park Lakes Specialist School; Pakenham South Primary School; Point Cook Senior Secondary College; Tarneit Primary School (Stage 2); Mill Park Lakes Secondary College (Stage 2); Newcomb Secondary College (Stage 2); and Traralgon Secondary College - East campus (Stage 3);
- **\$9.3 million** to drive excellence through specialisation in secondary schools, building new facilities in areas such as science and technology, arts, design, music, languages and sport;
- **\$21 million** to upgrade teaching facilities at the Warrnambool campus of the South West Institute of TAFE and the Wantirna campus of Swinburne University;
- **\$32 million** for the creation of new Technical Education Centres (TECs) at locations including Ballarat, Wangaratta, Berwick and Heidelberg, as announced in the Skills Statement *Maintaining the Advantage*;
- **\$48 million** to fund teaching equipment at TAFE institutes across Victoria also announced in the Skills Statement;
- **\$5.1 million** to establish a new Academic Number; and
- **\$9 million** to assist schools to buy computers;

Ms Kosky said the State Government would create a student identification system for all government, independent and catholic school students similar to the one already in place for senior school students, at a cost of \$5.1 million.

“When students move from one school to another, or shift from primary to secondary school, the new Academic Number will ensure information on their educational progress travels with them,” she said.

Ms Kosky said the Government had brought forward \$100 million of anticipated proceeds of the Snowy Hydro for accelerated modernisation and transformation, including:

- \$63 million for the modernisation of 23 schools;
- \$10.5 million to begin the construction of four replacement schools at Grevillia Park Primary School, Monash Special Development School, Pembroke Secondary College (design works) and Torquay 7-9 (design works);
- \$6.6 million to replace three relocatable schools with permanent buildings at Boneo Primary School, Little River Primary School and Traralgon South Primary School; and
- \$20 million to begin large scale transformation projects throughout the State.

An additional **\$50 million** from the *Building Tomorrow's Schools Today* fund had been allocated to school maintenance for all Government schools.

Ms Kosky said the Bracks Government would also provide **\$71.3 million** for the equivalent of 370 teachers and staff to ensure the ongoing operation and expansion of successful programs:

- \$24.1 million over two years to continue to employ the equivalent of 250 full time teachers under the Schools for Innovation and Excellence program for Years 5 to 9;
- \$47.2 million over four years to employ the equivalent of 120 co-ordinators responsible for the take-up of the highly popular Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

Students most in need of help to overcome learning difficulties will also be targeted.

An investment of **\$11.7 million** over three years will employ 45 new literacy improvement teams, who will work with teachers to help students overcome learning problems.

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“This will ensure that every child in every school in every suburb and town will get the help they need to learn to their full potential,” Ms Kosky said.

Other 2006-07 State Budget initiatives include:

- **\$11.6 million** over four years for professional development for the next generation of school leaders within the teaching system;
- **\$15.5 million** over four years for new training opportunities in areas of high regional demand, as outlined in the Provincial Statement *Moving Forward*;
- **\$6.2 million** over four years to increase an accommodation allowance to regional apprentices and trainees;
- **\$36 million** over four years to create a first year Trades Bonus;
- **\$216 million** to manage increased demand for school services for students with a disability and support program reform; and
- **\$400,000** to help students from schools in drought affected parts of Victoria.

Ms Allan said the State Budget also included \$241 million over four years to implement the Government’s skills strategy *Maintaining the Advantage*, including \$80 million for new TECs and TAFE equipment and over **\$161 million** of other initiatives to boost skills across the State.

“The majority of Victorian government schools will receive an immediate cash boost to fast track maintenance works and to upgrade computers,” she said.

Ms Allan said \$50 million of the \$600 million from the future sale proceeds of Snowy Hydro would immediately be invested directly into school maintenance.

“This will bring forward funds for schools to do today, what was planned for tomorrow,” Ms Allan said.

“It will enable schools to start necessary maintenance works including roofing, asphaltting, or electrical and plumbing upgrades.”

Ms Allan said the Bracks Government’s investment in the education system was already getting results for student and families across Victoria.

“We still have more to do and will continue to invest in our students and our schools,” she said.