

2006–07 VICTORIAN BUDGET

Building a Better Future



Young Victorians will again benefit from a Budget that focuses on delivering a world-class education and training system.

Through an additional \$1.2 billion allocated in this Budget, the Bracks Government will build an even better future for young Victorians by regenerating school infrastructure, further improving literacy standards for all students and building the skills of Victoria's workforce to grow the economy into the future. This Budget brings total additional investment in education and training to \$6.3 billion since 1999.

A massive \$448 million school and TAFE construction and equipment program will modernise and regenerate existing schools and build new schools to meet the needs of growing communities across the State.

This investment includes the first \$100 million of the Government's Building Tomorrow's Schools Today program, from the future sale proceeds of Victoria's share of the Snowy Hydro Limited.

The Bracks Government's significant investment in literacy will be further enhanced with an \$11.7 million program. Forty-five literacy specialists will be employed in Literacy Improvement Teams to work closely with classroom teachers in government schools, particularly those where the reading and writing skills of students in Years 3 to 8 are falling behind.

To ensure Government initiatives such as the Literacy Improvement Teams are making a real difference, a

new Academic Number will be introduced to track the progress of every student until they are 24.

Beyond the school gate, – this Budget invests in opportunities for more and better skills training for Victorians. It builds on the work we have already done to deliver a highly skilled, adaptable and innovative workforce into the future.

Up to 17,500 young tradespeople will benefit from the Government's \$36 million 'Trades Bonus' – a \$500 grant to first year apprentices, to encourage as many as possible to complete their trade. We have also tripled the current Apprentice and Trainee Accommodation Allowance to \$25 a night which will assist 3600 apprentices to build valuable work skills in rural communities.

This Budget continues the Bracks Government's commitment to education and training as our number one priority.

A great education and training system helps build a better future, making Victoria the best place to live and raise a family.

Lynne Kosky
Minister for Education and Training



The Bracks Government continues to invest in education to provide young Victorians with the best start in life.

In this Budget we recognise the added expense to families when their children commence primary and secondary school.

To help out, the Bracks Government will provide a one-off payment of \$300 to the more than 63,000 families with a child starting Prep and to the more than 66,000 families with a child making the transition to Year 7.

The \$182 million School Start Bonus will ensure Victorian students are well equipped for their transition to primary or secondary school.

The world is constantly changing and we need to ensure our education system provides our young people with the skills they need to participate in the workforce of the future.

This Budget provides an additional \$9 million for government schools to purchase new computers and IT equipment.

This builds on the Bracks Government's unprecedented investment in Information Communication Technology (ICT) including the \$89.3 million VicSmart initiative, which is providing every Victorian government school with fibre optic broadband.

Making education our number one priority has been a commitment that is now paying dividends with the lowest P-2 class sizes on record, improved school facilities and 6000 extra teachers and staff.

The Bracks Government has re-built the education system and there has never been a better time to be in a Victorian government school.

Jacinta Allan
Minister for Education Services

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



\$448 Million Construction and Equipment Program for Schools and TAFE

- **This massive construction program includes the first \$100 million from the once in a generation school building fund – *Building Tomorrow's Schools Today* – to school capital projects across Victoria.**

Projects include:

- **\$50.2 million to build new and replacement schools**
nine new and replacement schools will be built to meet the needs of growing communities
- **\$115.4 million to improve and upgrade schools across Victoria**
a minimum of 33 schools will have facilities modernised and upgraded
- **\$58 million for a School Land Purchasing Program**
- **\$21 million for TAFE modernisation**
\$10 million for a state-of-the-art centre at Swinburne University's Wantirna campus for training in sustainability and environmental design
\$11 million for South West Institute of TAFE to complete the final stage of its redevelopment of the Warrnambool campus
- **\$9.3 million to drive excellence through specialisation in secondary schools**
- **\$32 million for Technical Education Centres (TECs)**
new Technical Education Centres will be established at Ballarat, Wangaratta, Berwick and Heidelberg
- **\$48 million for TAFE equipment**
- **\$63 million to accelerate the modernisation of existing facilities**
23 schools across the state will benefit from this initiative
- **\$10.5 million to begin the design and construction of four replacement schools**
- **\$9 million for new computers in schools**

- › **\$6.6 million to provide permanent school facilities in schools that have predominantly consisted of relocatable buildings**
Boneo Primary School, Little River Primary School and Traralgon South Primary School will receive permanent facilities
- › **\$20 million to initiate major projects that will boost educational opportunities and outcomes across Victoria**

\$182 Million School Start Bonus

- › **Victorian students will get the best start at school, through the Bracks Government's 'School Start Bonus'**
the School Start Bonus will help every parent of a child starting Prep or Year 7. From 2007 parents will receive a one off payment of \$300 to help meet costs, including uniforms, school bags and equipment, when starting at primary and secondary school. This year eligible parents will receive a one off payment of \$150

\$11.7 Million to Fund Literacy Improvement Teams in Schools

- › **\$11.7 million will be provided for the establishment of Literacy Improvement Teams**
this unique initiative will employ 45 literacy specialists to work closely with classroom teachers in government schools

\$71.3 Million to Continue Reform in Victorian Government Schools

- › **\$24.1 million over two years to continue the Schools For Innovation and Excellence program**
this successful program is improving literacy, numeracy, school attendance and retention for students in Years 5–9
- › **\$47.2 million to continue the successful Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)**
VCAL has been a huge success for Victorian students, improving their school retention and pathways to employment destinations

\$5.1 Million for a New Academic Number

- › **A new \$5.1 million Academic Number to help improve outcomes for all students**
enrolment details for all Victorian students up to the age of 24 will be brought together in a streamlined system, ensuring critical information is not lost when students transfer from school to school or from school to TAFE or other training providers

\$11.6 Million School Leadership Initiative

- › **\$11.6 million will be allocated to build the capacity of school leaders to further improve the quality of learning and teaching**

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



Investing in a Skilled Victoria

- › **\$36 million 'Trades Bonus' for all first year apprentices**
a \$500 grant will be made available to Victorian apprentices in their first year to encourage as many as possible to complete their trade
- › **\$6.2 million Apprentice and Trainee Accommodation Allowance**
the current Apprentice and Trainee Accommodation Allowance will be tripled to assist apprentices and trainees from regional Victoria who must stay away from their home to attend approved off-the-job training at a TAFE institute or private training organisation
- › **\$230 million towards the Government's Skills Statement – *Maintaining the Advantage: Skilled Victorians***
- › **\$15.5 million for new training opportunities in areas of high regional demand, as outlined in the Government's Provincial Statement *Moving Forward*.**