



State Budget 2007

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FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION SERVICES

Tuesday May 1, 2007

\$210 MILLION FOR MORE TEACHERS AND HIGHER STANDARDS

Students at all levels of learning will receive more attention in the classroom and higher standards of teaching under a **\$210 million** package to support teachers and lift standards.

The Education Minister, John Lenders, and Education Services Minister, Jacinta Allan, said the 2007-08 State Budget would boost the number of teacher assistants by 300, train 200 specialist teachers and continue the successful Primary Welfare Officer program.

“The 2007-08 State Budget delivers on the commitment we made to Victorians to meet the challenges of the future and invest in the services that matter to their families,” Mr Lenders said.

“A quality education is one of the highest priorities of any family, and that is why the Bracks Government has employed 7300 extra teachers and staff, delivered record low class sizes, and new and modern classrooms to boost student performance.

“We also said more needed to be done to lift standards, and today we are delivering, with **\$35 million** over four years to employ at least 300 teacher assistants – one for every Government secondary school.”

Teacher assistants will organise school functions, help with programs, printing, photocopying, collecting money for excursions and preparing newsletters to ease the administrative workload for secondary teachers.

“This will give secondary teachers more time to spend with students in the classroom and focus on teaching and learning,” Mr Lenders said.

The Minister for Education Services, Jacinta Allan, said students and teachers would be further supported by funding of **\$80 million** over four years to continue the ongoing employment of 256 Primary Welfare Officers.

“This successful program has helped to lift the performance of thousands of students and will be extended,” Ms Allan said.

“Evaluations have found this program is instrumental in supporting students who are most in need of improving their reading, writing and numeracy skills, and boosting school attendance.”

Mr Lenders said excellence would also be further boosted in classrooms throughout Victoria with the training of 200 specialised teachers.

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“We will provide 150 scholarships, at a cost of **\$1.4 million** over six years, to encourage maths and science graduates to undertake further training in education and teach in government schools,” he said.

“Funding of **\$1.8 million** over six years will be provided for the Career Change Program to encourage 50 experts in their field to train as teachers.

“We will also provide **\$49 million** over three years to continue the *Schools for Innovation and Excellence* program, to boost student performance in mathematics and science.

“A further **\$32 million** will be allocated over two years to continue the Teaching and Learning Innovation fund to support new ways of teaching and learning, and innovative curriculum.”

Mr Lenders said **\$11 million** has been allocated in 2006-07 for Maths and Science Equipment Grants to improve outcomes for students in Years 5 to 12.

“Grants will be available to primary and secondary schools to ensure they have the very latest equipment to further enhance their learning,” he said.

“Under the Bracks Government, in 2005 Victoria achieved the highest Year 12 or equivalent completion rate and highest participation rate of any state in Australia, with primary school literacy and numeracy rates at or above the national benchmark.

“Through our continued commitment to improve teaching and deliver innovative programs we will continue to lift the performance of students across Victoria.”

Mr Lenders said in other State Budget decisions, funding of \$113 million would support needy non-government schools to achieve better results, while \$5.4 million would be directed to an after hours Ethnic Schools program and to excellence in languages.