



State Budget 2007

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FROM THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION SERVICES

Tuesday May 1, 2007

\$68 MILLION FOR ULTRANET AND COMPUTERS IN SCHOOLS

Parents, teachers and students at every government school will benefit from the 2007-08 State Budget allocation of **\$61 million** to implement the new Ultranet.

The Minister for Education Services, Jacinta Allan, said the cutting-edge technology was the first of its type in Australia and would revolutionise the school community by providing parents, teachers and students with access to the classroom 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“The 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, particularly education,” she said.

“The Bracks Government has lifted literacy and numeracy rates, reduced average class sizes, and employed an extra 7300 teachers and staff, but more needs to be done.

“We promised to invest in new technology to make our schools the most advanced in the country, and today we are delivering.”

To access the Ultranet, parents will log on to a secure website via the internet to find test results, report cards, homework tasks, attendance and information on school events and activities.

“Parents will receive continuous feedback on their child’s progress through the Ultranet when it is rolled out from late 2008, with full implementation anticipated by 2010,” Ms Allan said.

“The Ultranet will also provide students with better feedback from teachers, provide access to individually tailored lessons and allow them to learn while they are away from school.”

Ms Allan said use of the Ultranet would slash the administrative burden on teachers and allow sharing of the latest curriculum resources.

“Streamlining the management of attendance records, school reports and timetables through a central system will significantly reduce the time teachers and principals need to spend on administration,” she said.

Ms Allan said the Bracks Government would also provide **\$7 million** in 2007-08 for up to 7000 new or replacement computers to improve student access to computers in government schools.

“The Bracks Government has made a significant investment to achieve our target of one computer to every five students – one of the best ratios in the world,” she said.

“While most schools have achieved this target and some have exceeded it, this funding will ensure all schools have even better access to computers.”

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