Victorian Government Primary Schools Big Winners in Budget

All Victorian government primary school students will benefit from more than $911.2 million over five years which will provide world-class teachers and improve literacy and numeracy.

This additional funding will boost the teaching occurring in primary schools to ensure children have the firm foundations they need for a successful secondary education.

It will also build stronger leadership to improve student results and teacher performance at the local level.

The 2009–10 State Budget will provide the following investments in government primary education over five years:

**More support to improve literacy and numeracy teaching in primary schools**

This Budget continues to recognise the vital importance of providing primary school children with firm foundations in literacy and numeracy to ensure they don’t fall behind once they reach secondary school.

Primary schools will benefit from up to $38 million for a range of education initiatives to support the achievement of the Council of Australian Governments’ targets in key areas, such as:

- Improving literacy and numeracy outcomes through strong school leadership and whole-school engagement
- Improving teacher quality through world-leading professional development and support
- Closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students by continuing initiatives such as literacy coaches and early intervention strategies

**More maths and science coaches**

This Budget also supports the continued employment of 200 Teaching and Learning coaches in maths and science to work one-to-one with teachers in schools that have high numbers of students not meeting expected levels of achievement.

Approximately $30.7 million will support government primary school teachers.

This successful initiative is making a difference in targeted primary schools by improving student outcomes in maths and science so that children have the building blocks necessary for success in secondary school.
Victorian and Australian Governments working together supporting primary school students

New National Partnerships Agreements, developed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2008, include estimated funding for Victorian primary education of:

- **$126.1 million** through the National Partnership on Low Socio-Economic School Communities, to drive improvements in education outcomes for young students facing disadvantage
- **$10.9 million** through the National Partnership on Literacy and Numeracy to support improved student learning outcomes
- **$8.5 million** through the National Partnership on Improving Teacher Quality to drive further improvements to the quality of Victoria’s primary teaching workforce and school leadership

These 2009–10 Budget initiatives complement a primary education component of approximately **$697 million** which has been provided by the Victorian Government to build a better education system by lifting teacher quality through higher pay and more support in the classroom by giving teachers more student-free planning time.

This new funding complements the massive injection of funding for government primary school infrastructure in this year’s Budget, which includes:

- Approximately **$86 million** through the Brumby Government’s Victorian Schools Plan to rebuild, renovate or extend government primary schools
- Approximately **$2.1 billion** expected to go to government primary schools from the Federal Government’s Economic Stimulus Plan, to renew schools and boost employment in the building industry. This is part of the estimated **$3.48 billion** that government and non-government schools in Victoria will receive from the Economic Stimulus Plan.