



Australian Capital Territory

# Budget 2011-2012

## Media Release

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## Budget will deliver excellence in public education

The ACT Government is working smarter to deliver more for public education right across the Territory in the 2011-12 Budget, delivering \$42.8 million in new recurrent and \$151.4 million in new capital funding for education, Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr MLA said today.

“We remain committed to delivering more schools, more teachers and better outcomes for students in public education in the ACT. We are committed to investing in our frontline services, in our teachers and our schools, to ensure we deliver the highest standards in education and training possible.

“The total investment by this Government in education totals \$834.7 million in 2011-12 demonstrating the priority this Government places on investing in our future,” Mr Barr stated today.

The 2011-12 education budget’s new recurrent funding includes:

- \$20 million over four years to increase support for students with a disability in public schools;
- \$11.8 million to increase teacher salaries, including funding for leading and accomplished teachers;
- \$1.6 million over four years for increased frontline support services in schools for teachers;
- \$750,000 for the introduction of ACT Public Secondary School Innovation Fund over two years;
- \$450,000 over three years to support sporting excellence in schools;
- \$201,000 in funding for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra Noteworthy Program; and
- \$8 million over four years to meet the ongoing operating costs of new capital projects.

The 2011-12 education budget’s new capital projects includes:

- \$103 million in funding for new schools in Bonner and Franklin;
- \$9.2 million for the completion of Gungahlin College, Namadgi School and Harrison High Schools;
- \$10.1 million to expand Macgregor and Majura Primary Schools;

- \$2.3 million over two years for the provision of artificial grass playing surfaces for schools (fulfilling an election commitment);
- \$1.4 million for forward design work for a purpose built facility for the CC Cares program;
- \$2.6 million in funding for new ICT initiatives for schools;
- \$1.8 million to replace the Malkara Hydrotherapy pool; and
- \$10.8 million for upgrades to toilets facilities and other safety upgrades in schools.

“The additional funding provided in the 2011-12 Budget highlights the ACT Government’s determination to provide a high standard of education in Canberra’s public schools, with significant funding allocated to attract and retain quality teachers.

“The key to high performing students is the quality of their teacher and the ACT Government is committed to ensuring ACT students have the best teachers.

“This Budget commits \$11.8 million over four years to ensure we continue to attract and retain the best teachers in Canberra schools. It allows for the introduction of the leading and accomplished classroom teacher and improves career paths in schools.

“It allows for important reforms to teacher and school leadership salary structures, rewarding high performing and quality teachers, demonstrating how we can work smarter and deliver more in public education,” Mr Barr said.

Additional measures to support teachers to focus on the business of teaching and learning are also included in the 2011-12 Budget.

“At the last election, we committed to increased frontline support in ACT Public Schools to allow teachers to better concentrate on their core function. This Budget realises this commitment by providing \$1.6 million to ensure teachers are better supported by upgrading Primary School Business Manager positions,” Mr Barr concluded.

The Budget also sees the introduction of an ACT Public Secondary School Innovation Fund which will give high schools and colleges the opportunity to develop and implement innovative solutions to the recommendations arising from the Government’s College and High School Review.

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