



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON FUNDING COMMITMENT FOR SCHOOLS

The ACT Government continues to honour its commitment to provide extra funding for education over four years in the 2003-2004 Budget.

This Budget provides a further \$7.4 million for seven new initiatives, delivering on Labor's pledge to increase public investment in education." The Education Minister, Ms Gallagher said.

The seven education initiatives are based on advice from the Inquiry into ACT Education funding (the Connors report), the Government School Education Council, the non-government school advisory council and other key education stakeholders, " Ms Gallagher said

Reviews initiated by this Government in the last budget have also informed our budget decisions. Both the review of careers education and the review of counselling services have led to program initiatives in this Budget.

The 2003-2004 education budget initiatives include:

- ❑ **Curriculum Renewal Project** (\$2.291 million over 4 years) will establish an integrated curriculum renewal program for preschools through to year 10 in government schools.
- ❑ **Career Education Support Service** (\$1.801 million over four years) will support government and non government schools in the provision of effective guidance to students in school to work transitions.
- ❑ **Counselling Services in ACT Government schools** (\$2.628 million over four years) will provide a youth worker for every high school to complement their existing counselling and welfare services.
- ❑ **Additional funding for the non government school sector** (\$1.535 million over four years) will provide additional funding for non Government schools in kindergarten and Years 1-3 in recognition of the importance of the early years of schooling.
- ❑ **School Excellence Initiative** (\$464,000 over four years) to build on school improvement activities by providing guidance to schools in setting clear achievable goals and evaluating performance
- ❑ **Schools Equity** (\$532,000 over four years) is additional funding for the schools equity fund to support schools with a high concentration of students from low socio economic backgrounds and from at risk families.

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- **Additional Funding for Preschools** (\$906,000 over four years) to contribute to cleaning and consumables costs of preschools.

“Education is a key priority for this Government. We have acted on the research and consultations conducted over the last twelve months to make sure we maximise our investment in Canberra’s future.” Ms Gallagher concluded.

Statement ends.