



# ACT Government

## 2002-2003 BUDGET

### GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON COMMITMENT FOR \$27 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO EDUCATION

With the 2002-03 Budget, the ACT Government has honoured its commitment to provide an extra \$27m in education funding over the next four years.

“Investment in education is the best means of securing jobs for our children and ensuring a solid future for the ACT.” said Education Minister, Simon Corbell.

We have substantially increased expenditure on education in the 2002-03 Budget while at the same time providing for future investment.

With new initiatives worth almost \$20 million to commence in 2002-03 the Government has met its election commitments. Our investment in education reinforces the Stanhope Government’s view that education is a key priority,” Mr Corbell said.

A provision of more than \$7 million funding has been built into the Education Budget from 2003-04 to 2005-06 but without being committed to any new initiative at this stage. This allows the current Inquiry into ACT Education Funding, the School Education Councils and other key education stakeholders to inform the decision making.

In addition a further \$1.972 million will be made available from within existing resources as existing programs wind-up.

“Our priorities this year include reducing class sizes, IT development, increased support for students at risk and support for indigenous students. Schools will benefit immediately from this Government’s pro-active investment in the fabric of the schools environment.” said Simon Corbell.

The 2002-03 Educational Budget initiatives include:

- ❑ **Reduction in Year 3 Class Sizes** (\$12.322m over 4 years) – expands on the current reduction in class size program for years K-2 facilitating better educational outcomes for primary students.
- ❑ **High School Development** (\$2.0m over 4 years) – provides a high school resource team focussed on assisting high schools to plan educational programs develop engaging, relevant and inclusive curricula.
- ❑ **Laptops for Teachers Program** (\$1.68m over 4 years) – provides schools and teachers with quality desktop and laptop computers.

Media Release



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*Inquiries: Kym Connolly 6205 0497 or 0419 423 603*

- ❑ **Students Pathway Initiatives** (\$1.7m over 4 years) – focuses on developing individual student pathway plans and provides on-going support for student learning.
- ❑ **Enhanced Indigenous Support Program** (\$787,000 over 4 years) – improve learning outcomes and retention rates for indigenous students.
- ❑ **Schools IT Capacity Upgrade** (\$1.060m over 4 years) – enables a major upgrade of government schools infrastructure including the schools wide area network, security management arrangements and internet access.

“The Government’s future Budget deliberations will be informed by the views of the School Education Councils as well as by the views of the other key education stakeholders.” said Education Minister, Simon Corbell.

“We will also be assisted in our future Budget deliberations by three significant reviews which will be conducted during 2002-03. We will review schools’ reporting to students and parents as well as arrangements for providing careers advice to students. We will also review school counselling services to identify areas for improvement”, Mr Corbell said.

“The results of these reviews, the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding and broad consultation with education stakeholders will assist Government in developing future education budgets to ensure that we maximise the investment we make in our future.” said Simon Corbell.

**Statement ends 25 June 2002**