



Excellent Education, Quality Teaching

An investment in education is an investment in the future of Canberrans and the future of our economy. It is the best investment any government can make to ensure every Canberran and every ACT business is ready for the future.

In 2006, the Government began the largest investment program in public education since self-government, with \$350 million, to create high quality learning environments.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Government's investment in public education is supported by excellent results:

- in reading, writing and numeracy ACT students perform consistently better than Australian students in other States and Territories and those in other OECD countries; and
- ACT schools have the highest retention rates for Years 7 to 12 in the nation.

The Government is making ACT schools even better by:

- lowering class sizes in every government primary school;
- refurbishing every government school;
- building state of the art schools where they are most needed in Tuggeranong, Belconnen and Gungahlin;
- investing \$20 million to ensure state of the art IT in classrooms;
- investing \$14.6 million to provide pastoral care support for students in every high school;
- investing \$3.3 million to improve Indigenous education outcomes;

- investing more than \$1.2 million to revitalise physical education;
- developing new school-based apprenticeships that provide young Canberrans with the opportunity to gain their year 12 certificate while learning on the job; and
- working with the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) to develop accelerated apprenticeships in hairdressing, panel beating and chef training.

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 – READY FOR THE FUTURE

The 2008-09 Budget will continue to ensure ACT students are ready for the future by further investing in:

- government and non-government school facilities;
- early childhood schools, to provide more integrated programs of support and educational services for children from birth to 8 years of age;
- information technology in primary schools;
- equity initiatives, including greater support for students with disabilities;
- the arts in schools, to promote participation;
- the ANU College program, to extend opportunities for our highest achieving students studying biology and Japanese;
- teachers, to facilitate better outcomes for students; and
- investing in CIT's Vocational College, which supports students at risk.





FACTSHEET No: 5

ACT BUDGET 2008-09 INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	WHAT DO THESE INITIATIVES DELIVER FOR THE FUTURE?
An extra \$7.7 million for a further rollout of fibre optic cabling to government primary schools to support high speed internet usage.	This investment will ensure every ACT public school student has the fastest internet access of any education system in Australia – a vital tool in ensuring ACT students are ready for the future.
\$5.3 million for equity initiatives over four years including \$3.5 million for students with a disability, \$802,000 for students at risk, \$607,000 to extend the ANU Secondary College Program and \$402,000 for student equity funds.	This support will enable students with specific needs to reach their potential.
\$5 million for a new Performing Arts Centre at Calwell High School.	This investment will provide a modern performing arts facility to improve performing arts education in the region. The facility will also be a valuable community facility in Tuggeranong.
\$1.5 million to bring the opening of Harrison High School forward by one year.	Work will commence to bring the opening of Harrison High School forward to 2012 based on the success of Harrison Primary School and on accelerated land release in the Gungahlin area.
\$3.8 million over four years for strengthening teaching and school leadership.	Children in government schools will continue to benefit from quality teaching and learning programs.
\$3 million to redevelop the Erindale Leisure Centre.	Erindale Leisure Centre is an important facility for Erindale College and the surrounding community. It provides quality sport and physical education facilities.
\$1 million over 3 years for a range of Information Technology systems and equipment upgrades at CIT.	Staff and students at the Canberra Institute of Technology will benefit from state of the art technology.
An extra \$3.5 million to establish early childhood schools at Southern Cross, Lyons, Isabella Plains and Narrabundah and provide upgrades for O'Connor Cooperative School. An additional \$1.9 million is funded over four years for programs at the early childhood schools.	Based on international research showing the importance of quality education for very young children, this investment will deliver 4 schools specially designed to deliver education and other support services for children aged 0 to 8 years.
\$3.2 million for increased funding for non-government schools.	This extra funding will help non-government schools ensure they have the resources to improve the learning outcomes for students.

BUDGET 2008 - 2009

Further information

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