



ACT Government

2003-2004 BUDGET

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS

Providing high quality education requires schools and their communities to think about what they do, measure themselves against best practice and constantly work to improve outcomes. Today the Government has allocated \$464,000 over the next four years for the School Excellence Initiative.

“The School Excellence Initiative enables schools to build on existing good practice to provide a high quality education for all students” Minister for Education, Ms Katy Gallagher said.

The School Excellence Initiative will help schools assess their performance and look for improvements.

“The School Excellence Initiative aims to provide the tools for school self-assessment and to promote schools that are innovative, vigorous and confident in their capacity to provide high quality education for all of their students” Ms Gallagher said.

Improvement flows from changes in all aspects of schooling including learning and teaching, school leadership and management, students and their relationship within the school and the school’s relationships with the parents and the community.

The initiative will provide guidance for schools in setting clear achievable goals and there will be an external validation of the self-assessment and planning processes every three years.

“The initiative builds on the school development program funded by this Government in the last budget. It signals our commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement in ACT Government schools and ensuring a system that sets a benchmark for quality inclusive education.” Ms Gallagher said.

The first stage involves developing and trialing the new arrangements in consultation with schools. It will then be implemented in a third of government schools during 2004 and introduced in the remaining schools over the following two years.

Statement ends.

Media Release

