



Bill Stefaniak MLA

Australian Capital Territory

Minister for Education
with responsibility for:
Schooling
Vocational Training
Children's Youth and Family Services
Sport and Recreation

Budget 2000-01
Department of Education
& Community Services

BRICKS AND MORTAR IMPROVEMENTS FOR SCHOOLS IN 2000-01

Education Minister Bill Stefaniak has confirmed the Government will fund major building improvements in 2000-01 to some of Canberra's older schools, as well as provide updated science and technology learning areas.

Mr Stefaniak said the ACT Government was proud of its record of striving for the best resourced education system in Australia, and that included maintaining a safe and modern learning environment for Canberra students.

The ACT 2000-01 Budget allocates funding towards a **\$2.7 million** Capital Works improvement package, jointly funded with the Commonwealth, to provide modern, functional and safe science and technology facilities.

The Government will also jointly fund with the Commonwealth a **\$2 million** project to modernise some of Canberra's older schools, and implement occupational health and safety improvements.

Mr Stefaniak said key aspects of the funding initiative included:

- \$1.6 million for a 2-year project to upgrade technology teaching facilities at Wanniasa High School and Hawker College. The ACT will be providing \$750,000 in 2000-01 for the first stage, which will ultimately allow for the upgrade of wood and metal technology areas as well as photography labs.
- \$1.1 million for improvements to science teaching and learning facilities at Canberra College (Woden) and Belconnen High School.
- \$2 million over 2 years to fund important improvements at Forrest and North Ainslie Primary Schools. The project will provide better lighting, better ventilation and heating, ceiling tile treatment and non-slip floor coverings, among other improvements.

"I am happy to confirm the Government's commitment to these projects, as an important way of maintaining state of the art, safe teaching and learning facilities in our schools," Mr Stefaniak said.

"It's vital we invest in our educational facilities – not just to preserve the wonderful heritage, but to ensure that those facilities continue to meet the community's needs in years to come."

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