



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

ENHANCED FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

The Stanhope Government has allocated a further \$4.4 million over four years for students with a disability, said Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services.

The initiative will provide additional funding to both government and non government schools and aims to enhance the quality of education and level of service in meeting the growing number of students with disabilities and highly complex needs.

“The number of students with a disability has increased over the last three years and enrolments indicate this trend will continue. The number of students with highly complex needs is also growing and without additional funding, resources will be further stretched,” said Ms Gallagher.

“Assuming the current rate of increase continues it is projected that the number of students with a disability in government schools would exceed 1,900 by 2007”.

“The funding is also a response to heightened expectations about educational outcomes for children with a disability and the increasingly complex educational needs of these students.”

“All students benefit from a safe, supportive, welcoming and inclusive education environment. The Government is committed to ensuring that all students are provided with a high quality education and with the opportunity to realise their potential.”

“The Student Centred Appraisal of Need process implemented in 2004 identifies the educational and support needs of students with a disability and allows these to be prioritised in the student’s individual learning plan. Increased funding will improve the quality of support provided to address these needs,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

Statement Ends.