



ACT Government

2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

\$23 MILLION FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION – A BIG WINNER IN BUDGET

The Stanhope Government has continued its strong commitment to high quality education in the ACT.

“The ACT is the most highly educated community in the country, and we want to continue our considerable investment in children and young people, to provide the best possible future for them and for the community,” said Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, Ms Katy Gallagher.

“This Budget provides \$22.8 million over four years, for eleven education initiatives, delivering on the pledge made in the Social Plan to lead Australia in education, lifelong learning and training.”

The 2004-2005 budget initiatives include:

- **Schools ICT Infrastructure Fund** (\$3.6 million over four years) to supplement schools' capacity to purchase and upgrade IT resources including hardware, software and communications and related facilities.
- **Technical support for student computing** (\$4.1 million over four years) to assist schools by providing appropriate and reliable technical support for student computing networks.
- **Non Government Schools ICT** (\$2.5 million over four years) for information technology in the non government school sector.
- **Student Digital Passkey** (\$490,000 over three years) to provide funds to develop an electronic identity system for students, allowing them and their parents to securely and conveniently access a growing number of online services provided by government schools and the department.
- **School Websites Enhancement** (\$209,000) to create more secure and user-friendly school websites.
- **Broadband for non government schools** (\$200,000). Up to \$5,000 per school, for those schools not currently connected to broadband internet services.



- **Minor repairs and maintenance** (\$4.2 million over four years) to ensure the appearance of government schools reflects the value we place on education and the work of teachers and students.
- **Enhanced funding for students with a disability** (\$4.4 million over four years) to enhance the quality of education and increase the level of service to meet access and participation needs of a growing number of students with highly complex needs.
- **Promoting Healthy Students** (\$939,000 over four years) to improve the health and fitness of school students across both government and non government schools at primary and high schools and senior secondary colleges.
- **College Health Co-ordinators** (\$553,000 over four years) to provide support and information on health issues, drug education, alcohol and tobacco use, domestic violence, sexuality and relationships for senior secondary students.
- **Support for Indigenous Students** (\$1.6 million over four years) to support learning and retention for Indigenous students in government schools, with a particular focus on improving literacy and numeracy.

“This Budget demonstrates the government’s continuing focus on investing in education as a key priority,” said Ms Gallagher.

“Initiatives funded in this Budget build on the strength of previous programs such as smaller class sizes for years K-3, curriculum renewal, school excellence, career education, and putting youth workers in high schools.”

“Investment in our high quality and innovative education system is an investment in the future of Canberra,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

Statement Ends.