



ACT Government
2003-2004 BUDGET

**MORE FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOLS
EQUITY FUND**

The Stanhope Government has increased the School Equity Fund in recognition of the government's vision for a fair and inclusive Canberra.

The Schools Equity Fund supports schools with a higher concentration of students from low socio-economic backgrounds and from at risk families.

The initiative effectively doubles the level of resources available to the Schools Equity Fund bringing the total benefit to approximately \$300,000 each year.

"It is vital that we support and raise the educational opportunities for children and young people from disadvantaged families. The Schools Equity Fund is an effective way to assist these students to maximise their schooling opportunities" said Ms Katy Gallagher, Minister for Education.

This initiative is consistent with recommendations from the Inquiry into ACT Education Funding that additional expenditure support government schools.

Currently 14 ACT Government schools benefit from additional funding (13 Primary Schools and 1 High School). The additional funding will allow a significant expansion of the program by increasing the level of support available for students at risk and those from low socio economic backgrounds.

The Schools Equity Reference Group will provide advice on the allocation of the \$300,000 to government schools.

Statement ends.

Media Release

