



ACT Government

2002-2003 BUDGET

IT INITIATIVES FOR CANBERRA SCHOOLS

Information Communication Technology is a key issue in today's world and the Stanhope Government has allocated \$1.025m for school IT projects in 2002-03.

The initiatives include:

- Laptops for teachers program;
- Schools IT capacity upgrade; and
- IT grants to Catholic systemic schools.

Mr Corbell said "The **Laptops for Teachers Program** will play a major role in enabling teachers to expand their use of and skills with computers."

This initiative expands the current computers for teachers program and enables government schools to purchase a mix of desktop and laptop computers. This initiative provides schools and teachers with quality mobile computing options, enabling them to work seamlessly from a variety of locations.

The Government has allocated \$420,000 each year for four years to this program.

The funds for the Laptops Program will be devolved to schools. Schools will be free to purchase the mix of computers which suits their circumstances and meets their priorities. Laptops, although more expensive than the desktops, provide schools with the flexibility needed to meet the needs of teachers.

The **Schools' IT Capacity Upgrade** will enable a major upgrade of Government schools' IT infrastructure. The initiative includes upgrading the schools' wide area network, security management arrangements and Internet access, as well as improved school administration systems.

Funding of \$1.060m has been allocated over four years to cover capital expenditures.

Students and teachers will have access to high quality, reliable and robust communications infrastructure, which will enable greater integration of information technology into the classroom.

Mr Corbell also announced an allocation of \$250,000 each year for the next four years for **IT Grants to Catholic Systemic Schools**. This \$1m over four years to the ACT Catholic Education Office (CEO) will enable it to enhance the information technology capabilities of Catholic systemic schools.

This initiative will support the expansion of information technology capabilities of Catholic systemic schools thus enhancing opportunities for teachers and students to develop relevant information technology skills and experiences.

Statement ends 25 June 2002



Released: 25 June 2002

Inquiries: Kim Connelly 6205 0497 or 0419 423 603

Media Release