



ACT Government 2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

The Stanhope Government has continued its commitment supporting the ACT non-government school education system with an additional \$3.3 million in the 2004-2005 Budget.

In line with the Government's commitment to prepare ACT students for the future, equipped with advanced information technology skills, \$2.7 million has been allocated over four years to fund information technology in the non government school sector.

This significant investment expands on the previous allocation made in 2002-2003 of \$1 million over four years for Information Technology Grants to Catholic Systemic Schools.

Non Government Schools ICT

"Nearly \$2.5 million has been allocated over four years to fund information technology in the non government school sector. This initiative will increase the level of resources that non government schools have to deliver information and communication technology to their students," stated Minister for Education Youth and Family Services, Ms Katy Gallagher.

"This initiative will be of greater benefit to the less well resourced non government schools."

Broadband Connection

The Budget also allocates \$200,000 to connect non government schools to broadband internet services. Up to \$5,000 will be available for those schools not currently connected.

In combination with other initiatives these funds directly support the government's social, educational and economic goals. They support the theme of the Economic White Paper, namely the ACT will optimise its competitive advantage with its skilled workforce in what is increasingly becoming a knowledge economy.

Funding for Students with a Disability

Non Government schools will receive \$307,000 over four years to increase the level of service to meet access and participation needs of a growing number of students with highly complex needs in ACT schools. The additional funding will help to manage the increased demand for special education services over recent years.

Promoting Healthy Students

"We have also put \$295,000 towards improving the health and fitness of non government school students across all three levels of schooling over the next four years."



Specialist organisations will be contracted to deliver nutrition, physical and fitness education to clusters of schools, as well as in-school support.

“Through this substantial investment the government has shown its commitment to students in all education sectors. We have targeted priority areas - support for students with a disability, establishing good habits in our young people through healthy eating and physical activity and ensuring students are equipped with access to advanced information technology,” Ms Gallagher said.

Statement Ends.