



# ACT Government 2003-2004 BUDGET

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## A STRONG PROGRAM OF CAPITAL WORKS IN SCHOOLS

The 2003-2004 Budget provides for an ongoing high level of investment in school building facilities.

The 2003-2004 Capital Works Program provides new works valued at \$9.63 million for schools, including:

- \$2.8 million for older schools refurbishment;
- \$1 million additional funding for the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies;
- \$1.28 million transportable classrooms;
- \$1.5 million safety facilities at various schools;
- \$3 million has been provided for minor new works at various schools.

The Minister for Education, Ms Katy Gallagher said “the high level of funding for upgrading works in schools demonstrates the Government’s commitment to the provision of adequate facilities for staff and students. Increased funding this year for older school upgrades (\$2.8 million) in particular, will allow substantial improvements to the teaching and learning environments in Turner and Red Hill Primary Schools”.

\$1 million is allocated to the establishment of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies. This is in addition to the \$2 million approved in 2001-02 for relocation of functions from the O’Connell Centre and establishment of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies at the Weston site of Canberra College.

“The additional funding will ensure a more integrated facility, taking advantage of opportunities to share staff and other resources in the library with the college. The additional funding will also allow upgrading to the entrance and administration area as would be expected for an adult training centre”, said Ms Gallagher.

“Funding this year for minor new works (\$3 million) is double the amount provided last year in recognition of the value of this program, which gives Government the capacity to undertake a wide range of works in many schools to ensure they meet functional needs and are safe environments for staff and students”.

“As well as new works there are substantial ongoing works included in the 2003-2004 program including new schools in Amaroo that have a forecast level of expenditure over \$17 million in 2003-2004”, Ms. Gallagher concluded.

**Statement ends.**

