



Minister for Education  
with responsibility for:  
Schooling  
Vocational Training  
Children's Youth and Family Services  
Sport and Recreation

Bill Stefaniak MLA

Australian Capital Territory

**Budget 2000-01**  
Department of Education  
& Community Services

## **EDUCATION, COMMUNITY SERVICES** **A GOVERNMENT PRIORITY IN 2000-01**

An additional \$11.7 million for schools

Education Minister Bill Stefaniak has announced the ACT 2000-01 Budget includes a total expenditure of **\$541 million** for the portfolio of Education and Community Services.

He said the Budget provided additional funding of **\$14.6 m** for the portfolio compared to 1999-2000, demonstrating the Government's strong commitment to delivering the standard of services the ACT community expects and deserves.

"This Budget again delivers on the Government's commitment to the maintenance of real funding for schools, and marks the 6<sup>th</sup> year the Carnell Government has done so," Mr Stefaniak said.

"But importantly, the 2000-01 Budget includes a pay increase for ACT teachers, as part of the recently negotiated Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

"The EBA will guarantee a continually improving standard of teaching quality in the Territory, with staff to be subject to annual performance appraisals, and given much greater access to professional development."

Mr Stefaniak said the Budget incorporates an extra **\$11.7 million for Canberra's schools**, as part of the Government's high priority for Education and Community Services

The Minister said of that, ACT Government schools will receive an extra \$10.6m in the 2000-01 financial year, while Non-Government schools will receive an additional \$1.1m.

"In March, leading accounting firm KPMG reported the Government had substantially exceeded its election commitment, of maintaining government schools funding in real terms since 1995.

"Considering the financial mess we inherited from the ALP in 1995, it has been a considerable achievement to just keep pace with inflation, let alone provide real increases – as we have done.

m e d i a r e l e a s e



**Bill Stefaniak MLA**

Australian Capital Territory

Minister for Education  
with responsibility for:  
Schooling  
Vocational Training  
Children's Youth and Family Services  
Sport and Recreation

**Budget 2000-01**  
**Department of Education  
& Community Services**

"That is a feat the Labor Party could only have dreamed about achieving when it was in power."

Mr Stefaniak said the ACT's changing demographics, and falling school enrolments meant there would be the equivalent of 10 less teachers employed in the Government school system in 2000-01. Any reductions to teacher numbers would be through natural attrition.

Mr Stefaniak said however the 2000-01 Budget included a range of exciting initiatives for the Education and Community Services portfolio, including:

- ☑ A \$510,000 boost for Apprenticeship and Trainees
- ☑ The funding of a Youth Service for a new Lanyon Youth Centre
- ☑ \$2.8m in capital works funding for a new sports facility at Gungahlin
- ☑ \$1.1m to upgrade science areas at the Canberra College and Belconnen High School
- ☑ \$1.6m for refurbishment of technology areas at Hawker College and Wanniasa High School

"I am particularly excited about the \$500,000 initiative included in this budget to enhance information technology learning in schools," Mr Stefaniak said. **(see separate release)**

"That will fund a project to increase student and teacher access to school computer networks, and allow for higher speed data transfer between schools.

"It's just one initiative in the 2000-01 Budget designed to keep the ACT at the forefront of Australian teaching and learning, with the best resourced education system in the country."

---

Embargoed until: 23 May 2000

Media contact: Craig Allen

(02) 6205 0292 – office (0412) 487 504 – mobile

**Visit the ACT Government website: <http://www.act.gov.au/>  
Or subscribe to the online media release service: <http://www.act.gov.au/mediareleases/>**