

From: Director-General, DET <DET.Director-General@det.nsw.edu.au>
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:24:37 2009
Subject: 2009-2010 Budget

Dear Colleagues,

The State Government delivered its 2009-2010 Budget today. I thought you might like a summary of what's in it for education and training.

The full documents are available at www.budget.nsw.gov.au <<http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au>> and you can read the Minister's media release at [www.budget.nsw.gov.au/budget by portfolio/education and training](http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/budget%20by%20portfolio/education%20and%20training) <[http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/budget by portfolio/education and training](http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au/budget%20by%20portfolio/education%20and%20training)> .

This is a notable budget: the biggest one-year increase in recurrent funding since the late 1970s; the largest-ever annual school and TAFE building program; and the first budget in nearly a decade to assume that public schooling's share of all enrolments will not fall.

The budget provides us with \$5.7 billion over the next four years for capital works in schools and TAFE.

Most of the new funding - \$1.9 billion in schools alone in 2009-2010 - comes from the Commonwealth as part of its stimulus package, but State funding for building work is also rising.

In 2009-2010 we have \$560 million of State funding for capital works in schools and TAFE, and a further \$244 million for school maintenance.

Our state-funded capital works are up over 20% in schools and almost 55% in TAFE.

This budget also ushers in some change to how we work together to maintain schools. So far, more than 300 principals have decided to manage their Commonwealth-funded maintenance work under the National School Pride Program.

Total recurrent investment in school education for 2009-10 is \$9.9 billion, an increase of \$870 million, or 9.6 per cent on last year's budget.

The increase for public education is \$850 million, or a bit over 10%. The state-funded increase to non-government schools is 2.7%.

The Commonwealth Government is currently considering a draft NSW implementation plan for a number of new national partnerships.

Under the partnerships in 2009-2010, the Commonwealth and NSW will provide:

- * \$120 million for schools serving low socio-economic status communities, which will include a range of plans to lift the educational attainment of students in disadvantaged communities;

- * \$44 million for literacy and numeracy, which includes monitoring student performance to identify when support is needed and implement effective evidence based support programs;

- * \$6 million for teacher quality, which includes plans to attract, train, develop and retain quality teachers and principals in schools; and
- * \$163 million for the Digital Education Revolution to continue the roll-out of wireless laptops in secondary schools and central schools.

The budget includes a substantial increase in equity funding, including a \$51 million increase for children with disabilities and a further \$18 million in extra funding for the transport services that get them to and from school.

We also have \$271 million in capital and recurrent funding over the next four years, starting at \$18 million in 2009-2010, to support increasing the school leaving age to the end of Year 10 and introducing a participation phase to the age of 17.

The budget provides nearly \$25 million over four years to implement the Government's Keep Them Safe initiatives, the response to last year's inquiry into the child protection system.

This funding will allow us to establish a Child Wellbeing Unit as our point of contact for queries about or concerns of risk of harm to children that do not clearly require a report to DoCS. It will also allow us to employ out of home care coordinators and more home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers.

In 2009-10, the total recurrent investment in TAFE NSW and related services is estimated at almost \$2 billion, an increase of some 5% on the 2008-09 budget.

This is the first year that NSW, through the Board of Vocational Education and Training, is managing the Commonwealth-State Productivity Places Program.

The program will provide around \$670 million of new funding for the NSW vocational education and training sector, including a Commonwealth contribution of \$420 million.

Almost 175,000 additional training places will be delivered for job seekers and existing workers in skill shortage areas.

Our Learn or Earn initiative receives \$86 million over the next four years - including \$21 million in 2009-10 in recurrent and capital funding.

The TAFE capital program for 2009-10 is \$99 million. This provides for the start of 15 new major projects at an estimated total cost of \$87 million. These include the upgrading of facilities at Armidale, Dubbo, Macquarie Fields, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong TAFE colleges.

Work will continue on 27 projects at TAFE Institutes commenced in previous years at an estimated total cost of \$155 million. This includes works at Castle Hill, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Mudgee and Tamworth TAFE colleges.

TAFE NSW is playing a vital role in ensuring that the NSW workforce is equipped with the required skills to build and support the economy of the State.

While the department has had significant funding increases in 2009-10, like every other government agency we are again required to achieve efficiency savings of around 1% on our operating expenses.

These savings will build on the savings arrangements already in place and will continue to be made so that they have the least possible impact on service delivery. We will continue to extract as much of these savings as we can from better procurement practices.

With my best regards,

Michael Coutts-Trotter

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TAFE NSW

16 June 2009