



Our State.  
Our lifestyle.

Through education, training  
& information services



This year's Budget once again demonstrates the State Government's commitment to providing quality education and training opportunities for all Tasmanians.

I am confident that this year's Budget will enable us to build on our achievements and work towards achieving our long-term goal of a world-class education, training and information system.

I look forward to us all working together to achieve this goal.

*Paula Wriedt*

Paula Wriedt MHA  
Minister for Education



Since 1998 the Government has injected \$227.5 million more into education (an increase of

43.5%), bringing the total appropriation funding for the education portfolio in the 2005-06 Budget to \$750.8 million.

### KEY INITIATIVES

- **Skills for Growth – directly addressing skills shortages to enable business and industry growth: \$12.6 million over four years**  
Initiatives include:
  - Supporting Enterprise Development – subsidised training provided by TAFE Tasmania to targeted industries to stimulate demand for training for existing employees
  - Trades Express – an accelerated trades recognition and training program for mature-aged Tasmanians and new workforce entrants
  - Skills Direct – short training programs to meet specific industry skills requirements
  - Training for Migrants and Refugees – additional programs to improve employment outcomes for migrants and refugees
- **Supporting students with high and/or additional needs: \$4.3 million**  
Initiatives include:
  - Employing additional specialist support staff such as guidance officers, social workers and speech pathologists and providing additional resources
  - Increasing resources to school clusters with high needs for additional support programs for their students
  - Providing resources for clusters to support flexible education programs and establishing new alternative education programs in the north and north-west
  - Continuing funding for the Managing and Retaining Secondary Students at School program (MARSSS)
- **Establishing a Tasmanian Early Years Foundation: \$750,000**
  - Supporting early learning and development initiatives and promoting public and corporate awareness of the importance of the early years
- **Increasing educational programs for refugee and migrant students: \$650,000**
  - Extending the English as a Second Language (ESL) program
- **Assisting transition from primary to secondary school: \$750,000**
  - Providing additional resources for clusters to develop programs to improve transition for students moving from primary to secondary education
- **Establishing the Institute for Inclusive Learning Communities: \$300,000**
  - Supporting the professional learning of staff working with students with special and/or additional needs through the University of Tasmania
- **Reducing class sizes: \$500,000**
  - An additional \$500,000 to continue implementation of our 2002 election commitment to reduce class sizes for Prep and Grade 1 students, lifting the overall commitment to \$1.8 million
- **Increasing opportunities for students to participate in sport: \$175,000**
  - Supporting the development of school sport through regional sports co-ordinators
- **Establishing new Online Access Centres at Glenorchy and Clarence Plains: \$1.1 million**
  - Providing Tasmanians with better access to information technology
- **Improving computer and Internet access: \$90,000**
  - Assisting Online Access Centres to provide free access to the disadvantaged
- **Continuing funding of Tasmania: State of Learning: \$3.7 million**
  - Improving post-Year 10 education and training opportunities for Tasmanians
- **Providing training for the State's fishing, aquaculture and maritime industries: \$2.75 million over four years**
  - Meeting industry training needs with state funding
- **Providing record-level funding for capital works: \$33.53 million**
  - Continuing the commitment to upgrading schools, libraries and TAFE facilities
- **Providing infrastructure maintenance: \$2 million**
  - Reducing deferred maintenance in schools
- **Increasing School Resource Packages: \$500,000**
  - Providing additional funding to schools for staff relief