Investing in quality education and training

A record $950 million investment in education and training initiatives from the Henderson Government in Budget 2012 supports families with quality education options while equipping our workforce for the opportunities of growth.

Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns said the record investment in schools, teachers, specialist education programs, re-engagement and improved training outcomes is an investment in a smart Territory.

“We know that children who go to school every day in the Territory get a great education, and Budget 2012 continues the Henderson Government’s commitment to education,” Dr Burns said.

“All primary and group schools in the Territory are receiving improved infrastructure delivered through our 2008 election commitment and in partnership with the Australian Government, Building the Education Revolution projects have continued to delivered world class facilities to schools across the Territory.

“Budget 2012 continues to support teaching in the Territory, with professional development and increased support in the classroom through teacher aides, specialist learning support and positive behaviour initiatives.

“Budget 2012 delivers funding for re-engagement and positive behavior services, as well as funding for our Centres for Excellence.

“Special school facilities will continue to be improved as part of the $30 million five-year program, with $9.86 million allocated this year.

“Investing in quality education means Territory students have the opportunity to go on to fantastic careers, great universities like CDU and excellent employment prospects.”

Smart Territory

Budget 2012 delivers a range of initiatives to support a Smart Territory and improved education outcomes, with:

• $2.15 million to expand stage 1 implementation of the Australian Curriculum to a total of $3 million;
$1.47 million towards a total of $10.16 million to expand ‘virtual’ very remote early childhood integrated service hubs and Families as First Teachers programs;
• $900,000 to expand engagement programs for girls, including establishment of the Girls Engagement, Mentoring and Support (GEMS) program to add to the successful Clontarf engagement programs;
• $350,000 boost to expand positive behaviour support in schools to $2.24 million, including rollout of the Positive Behaviour initiative, anti-bullying strategies and peer mediation training, and drug education professional learning;
• $200,000 as part of a $3.17 million implementation of the new Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training; and
• An additional $1 million for a state-of-the-art student administration management system to a total of $2.38 million.

Strategic use of the Territory’s co-investment of $17 million in 2012-13 and additional complementary investment, leveraging Commonwealth funding of $62.5 million under the Smarter Schools and Stronger Futures national partnerships including:

• $23.45 million for continuation of 170 teachers for remote schools;
• $12.55 million to continue and expand a range of reforms in remote schools resulting in more Indigenous teachers, quality literacy and numeracy teaching, and reengagement of students with education and training;
• $5.16 million to enable the delivery of local initiatives to address barriers to education experienced by disadvantaged students including continued investment in Strong Start Bright Futures colleges;
• $3.87 million to continue training and supporting teachers with evidence-based teaching of literacy and numeracy;
• $3 million for the Centre for School Leadership, Learning and Development;
• $1.28 million to continue providing English as a Second Language training and support for teachers; and
• $1.1 million to provide site-based mentoring and coaching for school principals and senior leadership teams, particularly those in remote areas.

Supporting Teachers

Budget 2012 supports over 3000 teaching staff in schools across the Territory, an increase of 465 teachers, which equates to 15 per cent, since 2001

Initiatives to support quality teaching include:
• $1.56 million to lead the national Teach Remote initiative including the National Alliance for Remote Indigenous Schools teacher recruitment, selection and support programs;
• $1.2 million to continue to support 50 Specialist Teacher positions in identified schools; and
• An additional eight attendance and truancy officers under the Every Child Every Day strategy.
Boost for Special Needs Students

Budget 2012 delivers $9.86 million in upgrades to Special Education infrastructure as part of a $30 million five-year program including:

- $2 million to continue works on special education classes at Palmerston Senior College;
- $2.75 million for a special education centre at Taminmin College;
- $2 million to expand facilities at Henbury School;
- $1.8 million for upgrades at the Kintore Street School; and
- $900,000 to upgrade the preschool and drop-off area at Acacia Hill School; and

Design work for the Bellamack Special School will also commence in Budget 2012.

Budget 2012 provides a $5.8 million boost to further align, co-locate and tailor curriculum and special needs support services in regions to a total of $43.78 million.

Budget 2012 delivers $1.97 million from the More Support for Students with Disabilities National Partnership Agreement over two years to expand services in speech therapy, assistive technology, autism and school-based special education teachers and support officers.

Budget 2012 delivers $41.8 million to continue support services for students with intellectual and physical disabilities and students with high level behavioural and emotional difficulties including:

- $1.1 million to expand Positive Learning Centres in Alice Springs, Katherine, Darwin and Palmerston to a total of $2.42 million, for students demonstrating extreme challenging behaviours and enhanced Autism Spectrum Disorder professional support in Palmerston and Darwin.

Building Better Schools

Budget 2012 delivers $3.6 million to upgrade 13 schools, including: Alekerange; Yuendumu; Utopia; Millner, Jingili; Casuarina Steet; Moulden; Papunya; Ramingining; Umbakumba; Wugularr; Batchelor and Berry Springs.

Budget 2012 provides an additional $1.5 million to upgrade preschool facilities

Subsidising Child Care costs

The Territory Government is the only jurisdiction to provide a child care subsidy to offset child care costs for families. The subsidy is paid to licensed child care centres. The $4.3 million child care subsidy provides:

- $27.37 per week for a child under two, or $1433 per year for full-time care; and
$20.20 per week for a child over two, or $1050 per year for full-time care.

**Supporting At-Risk Youth**

Budget 2012 continues to support youth who have displayed antisocial or offending behaviour including $4.6 million to establish a re-engagement centre for disengaged 12 to 17 year olds in the Darwin, Palmerston and Top End regions including:

- $800,000 to fit out a re-engagement centre in Darwin;
- $3.02 million to co-locate a range of transition support programs and services; and
- an additional $790,000 million to expand enrolment and attendance initiatives, to a total of $4.84 million under the Every Child Every Day strategy.

$1.2 million will be spent to expand counselling and support services to a total of $4.4 million with a particular focus on at-risk students in very remote communities.

**Working Future**

Budget 2012 continues measures by the Commonwealth and Territory governments to improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous students and close the gap of disadvantage, with:

- $5.29 million for a new training facility and classrooms at Angurugu and refurbishment of a kitchen at Alyangula to provide for VET programs;
- $3.56 million for a new training facility to provide VET programs at the Ngukurr Trade Centre;
- $2.85 million for new training facilities at Gunbalanya and Jabiru schools to provide VET programs;
- $1.6 million to upgrade Kalkarindji School;
- $1.1 million to replace the administration block at the Walungurru School; and
- $1.87 million for a child care centre at Ntaria.

**Jobs Plan Supporting Training**

The Henderson Government is focused on growing our workforce for the future, and the focus on training has seen the Territory record the highest VET participation rate in Australia.

There are now more than 4200 apprentices and trainees in training in the Territory. This is a more than 90% increase on the number in training in 2001.

Of those currently in training, 1800 are in traditional trade apprenticeships in identified skill shortage areas.

Budget 2012 provides $100 million towards training and apprentices to grow a skilled Territory workforce.
Further initiatives to support training and apprentices include:

- $1.39 million for the continuation of support programs for employers of apprentices in occupations with skill shortages and apprentices from disadvantaged groups;
- $1.3 million for the WorkWear WorkGear program to help apprentices and trainees with the costs of buying work wear and other work-related necessities during the first year of their apprenticeship or traineeship with a $300 start-up grant. $1000 is available for people who undertake training in identified skill shortage areas;
- $1 million per annum for 10 000 apprentice and trainee commencements between 2009 and 2012;
- Work Ready funding of $900,000 to continue to help young Territorians transition from school into apprenticeships and traineeships; and
- $250,000 to continue providing vocational education and training, and work experience programs for students in the middle years of schooling, particularly young Indigenous men.

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