

2008-09 Budget

Delivering for Territory Families

FACT SHEET

Education

Budget 2008 provides a record \$719 million for employment, education and training, up 51% since 2001. An additional 300 staff are in or directly supporting Territory schools, since 2001.

Closing the Gap

Budget 2008 provides funding to implement initiatives aimed at Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage, including:

- \$6.2 million to upgrade community education centres at Yuendumu, Yirrkala, Ramingining, Ngukurr and Alekrange
- \$4 million to convert Arlparra and Yilpara homeland learning centres to schools
- \$1.5 million for 10 additional teachers in remote areas
- \$1.5 million for new mobile pre-schools servicing remote communities
- \$0.5 million for four additional student counsellors
- \$0.65 million for a school attendance team to target students with poor attendance records, and an education campaign on the value of schooling
- \$0.1 million to extend the Isolated Student Education Allowance program to support two new regional hostels being established by the Commonwealth in remote locations
- \$0.6 million to expand information technology services in remote schools
- \$1.12 million for 16 jobs supporting Territory schools to transition from CDEP to mainstream public service positions

Building the Territory's Schools

Budget 2008 continues the boost to education infrastructure. New building programs include:

- \$2 million for Alawa Primary School
- \$2 million for Leanyer Primary School
- \$1 million for Malak Primary School
- \$2 million for Ross Park Primary School
- \$2 million for Nakara Primary School
- \$0.5 million for Jingili Primary School

\$9.5 million has been provided for headworks to prepare for new primary and middle schools at Rosebery.

In Budget 2008 \$6.3 million will be provided for minor new works and \$26.81 million for repairs and maintenance to schools.

To assist students with intellectual disabilities and other special needs, Budget 2008 will fund an additional \$1.7 million ongoing.

School and Community Partnerships

The Territory Government will spend \$1.2 million in 2008, part of a total of \$6.6 million over five years to develop partnership programs to improve student engagement and community involvement.

Training

Budget 2008 invests \$6.5 million in strategic jobs and training initiatives under Jobs Plan 3, maximising employment opportunities and developing a skilled labour market that meets industry needs.

Training Opportunities for all Territorians

There are now more than 3300 apprentices and trainees in training, an increase of 1150 since 2001. Of those currently in training, 1760 are in skill shortage trade areas.

The Government will target efforts to ensure that more Territorians are able to enter the workforce, with:

- \$4.6 million to address specific training and employment needs of Indigenous adults in regional and remote areas
- \$0.75 million to support the training of up to 200 additional apprentices and trainees
- continuation of the Government's \$1.6 million three-year program for an additional 100 Public Sector trainee places
- \$10 million over five years to support Indigenous employment by transitioning Community Development Employment Program employment to mainstream paid positions
- continuation of workforce development programs that respond to community needs and result in real employment outcomes for people from disadvantaged groups
- \$0.5 million to expand education and training for prisoners on literacy, numeracy and driver training

Employer Incentives

Budget 2008 continues to encourage employment by offering employment incentive packages, including:

- 340 incentives valued at \$4000 each available to employers who take on an apprentice in a skills shortage occupational area such as in the automotive, construction and hospitality industries
- 200 incentives valued at \$2000 each for employers who take on an apprentice or trainee from a disadvantaged group

Technical Training

Budget 2008 continues to provide funding for vocational education and training services, with \$21.1 million to support and train apprentices across the Territory.

The Government will also provide \$48.1 million to Charles Darwin University and \$9.45 million to Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to provide vocational education and training that will improve opportunities for employment.

The Territory is continuing to work with the Commonwealth in order to take advantage of resources for technical training in schools, with facility improvements at:

- Casuarina Secondary College
- Taminmin High School
- Palmerston High School

These are expected to be completed in 2008-09.